

Semi-Annual Report



2024-2025
Ministry Reports
South Canyon Lutheran



Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. *Approval of Agenda
4. *Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2024
5. Leadership Reports
6. Old Business
 - a. Budget and Financial Update
 - b. Constitution Update
7. *Elections
 - a. SD Synod Assembly Voting Members
 - b. Church Council Elections
 - c. Nominating Committee
8. New Business
 - a. Call Process Update
 - b. Thank Yous
9. Election results
10. Handing off the baton
11. Adjournment
12. Closing with the Lord's Prayer

(*Requires action)

Minutes

South Canyon Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting November 17, 2024

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer.

President Diane Tschetter welcomed the church members and called the meeting to order. She announced that she was adding discussion of the new Kitchen Coordinator to the agenda and asked if there were any other changes to the agenda. None appearing, Desyl Petersen moved, and Jim Haar seconded that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Gladys Storm moved and Joyce Thiery seconded that the minutes of the May 19, 2024 Semi-Annual meeting be approved as presented in the printed Semi-Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Leadership reports were presented by various council members. The reports are printed in the Semi-Annual Report.

*Diane Tschetter presented her Presidents Report. She offered special thanks to our staff mentioning Kristi, Ellen and Mona in particular. In addition, she thanked and introduced the Council, the Ministerial team, and the Call Committee.

*Bob Thompson presented the Property and Grounds Report. He thanked Joel Petersen and the committee members for their hard work in keeping the church building in such good condition and invited others to join the team.

* Ken Bauman thanked Kristi Wellendorf and Andrea from Crow Peak Accounting for their efforts to reconstruct the Trust and Memorial Fund accounts. They researched gifts from the last 10 years to ensure they were all appropriately accounted for. Gladys Storm expressed concerns that the fund contributions totaling \$189,653.14 were not found in the Treasurers Report. Ken explained that many of the funds had been spent in accordance with the wishes of the giver. Additionally, several non-interest-bearing accounts were consolidated into interest-bearing accounts.

* President Diane announced that the personnel committee has recommended to the Council that we offer the position of Kitchen Coordinator to a person who has been interviewed and seems very well qualified for the position.

*Byron Mutschelknaus presented the 2025 Budget (Mission Plan) along with comparisons from 2023 and 2024. Desyl Petersen moved and Byron seconded to accept the proposed budget to allow for discussion. Byron estimated that SCLC would have a surplus of approximately \$64,000 for 2024. He also announced that the presented budget amount of \$712,322 did not include a cost-of-living salary increase for all staff. If we approved a COL increase of 3% for all staff, the budget would increase to \$721,241. Dave Johnson moved that we approve the budget of \$721,241 which includes the COL increase. Steve Stensen seconded the motion. After much discussion, the amended motion was approved.

PJ Haar presented the Treasurer's Report. There were several questions regarding the budget and the deposit accounts. Gladys Storm requested that we determine how much Trust and Memorial funds were left and in which accounts we could find those funds.

Pastor Deb and Kristi discussed Thrivent Funds and how we could best utilize those funds. The church will provide training on how to access the funds. PJ asked for more volunteers to help with counting Mondays.

Unfinished Business:

Desyl Petersen discussed the work on the revision/rewrite of the Constitution and By-Laws. The work is basically done and will be presented to the council soon and then to the congregation for approval.

Diane announced that the Audit Committee and the Personnel Committee have been hard at work. The Audit Committee is reviewing procedures and processes. The Personnel Committee is developing job descriptions and meeting with staff.

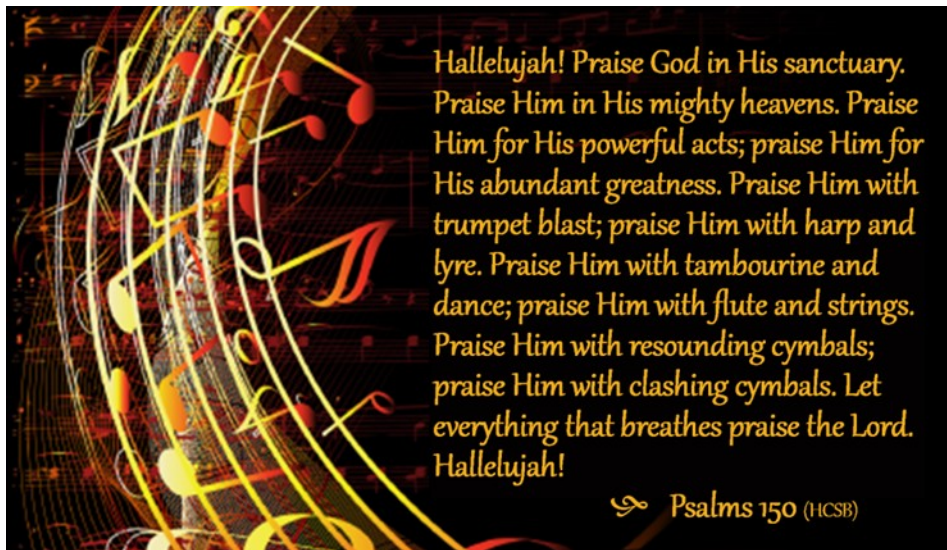
No New Business was offered for discussion.

Pastor Deb closed the meeting with prayer, including The Lord's Prayer. Lynn DesLauriers moved, and Mary Bauman seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Bauman, Secretary

Senior Pastor's Letter



Hallelujah! Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for His powerful acts; praise Him for His abundant greatness. Praise Him with trumpet blast; praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with flute and strings. Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

✎ Psalms 150 (HCSB)

Wonderful Family of Faith,

As we gather for our semi-annual meeting, I do praise God for so many things. I praise God that I was blessed to be called to South Canyon Lutheran Church as your senior pastor over six months ago. I praise God that I have been so warmly welcomed by staff and congregation alike. I praise God that I am part of a team of phenomenal staff whose focus is on sharing the love of God in so many ways and empowering

others to be a part of the ministry to which we are called. I praise God for the many ways all of you have given of your time, talent and resources so that the mission and ministry of SCLC continues inside and outside the building.

I praise God for our musicians who help us worship through music. I praise God for the teachers and assistants who pass on the faith to our children through our Christian education ministry and the preschool. Hearing the voices of children every day in our building fills my heart and soul. I praise God for the ushers, altar care members, greeters, readers and assisting ministers without whom worship could not happen. I praise God for the kitchen volunteers who feed us so well both physically and spiritually. I praise God for the Piecemakers whose ministry touches so many lives. I praise God for the Council members, committee members and team members who help bring to life the work of our congregation. I praise God for the ministries that have been a part of the life of this congregation for years and I praise God for the ministries which are just beginning.

There is so much for which to praise God. I know this list is just the beginning. The beginning is where I feel my ministry still is with all of you. Much has happened in the past year. I can only speak to the past six months. We have mourned together the loss of some wonderful people and some wonderful ministries. We have rejoiced with families as their children were baptized and confirmed. There have been many challenges as well as joys. We have walked through all of them together with God leading us which is most important in the life of our congregation.

As we look forward to all the ways the Holy Spirit is leading us, there are some uphill journeys we will need to face together. We need to strengthen our committees and teams with additional members to help with the work so that our current members don't burn out. We need to continue to pray for our new associate pastor, whomever God will send our way. We need to seriously look at our financial giving and ask ourselves, are we living within a mindset of scarcity or abundance? We need to continue to find ways to build relationships with each other as well as within the community. We need to find ways to converse about tough topics and how we are called to respond as Christians. Not easy work but together with God, we will continue forward.

Thank you for calling me to be a part of this community of faith. Together we will continue to praise God.

Pastor Deb Grismer

Church Council

Thank you to our council members for their dedicated service to SCLC!

President: Diane Tschetter

Budget & Finance: Kelly Whiting

Vice President: Mandey Tschetter

Care Corps: Gary Johnson

Secretary: Ken Bauman

Youth: Halima Kringen

Treasurer: PJ Haar

Worship: Debra Watson

Property & Grounds: Bob Thompson

Outreach: Jona Hagen

Education: Nichole Morse

President's Report

Diane Tschetter, Council President

What an exciting time to be church together! So much has happened since our November 2024 Semi-Annual meeting. However, the highlight of my three years on council has been the Meet and Greet held last fall to meet the candidate chosen by the call committee and approved by the council to be our next senior pastor. This congregation showed up, as it was nearly standing room only in Fellowship Hall. The display of fantastic food on the tables was overwhelming, as was your support to call Pastor Debora Grismer to be our senior pastor!

It has been my great privilege to work alongside Pastor Deb these past several months. With the help of the Personnel committee and council, we have hired a new cook, and two additional employees to our office staff. Changes have led to a more efficient monthly council meeting, and committees have been doing an excellent job in their areas of responsibility. Please read their reports for a capsule look at what's been happening. It's pretty impressive.

Council has voted on a call committee to lead us as we search for an Associate pastor. Please keep them and the call process in your prayers, as we seek the person God has in mind to help lead our congregation.

An outreach committee has been formed recently, and we look forward to discovering what new opportunities for ministry in the community will be offered. The outreach committee and council have approved a pilot program that begins in June as we partner with Feeding South Dakota to distribute boxes of food to low income seniors.

There has been such a rejuvenation of ministries, excitement and growth at South Canyon Lutheran Church. New congregation led groups are being started. There is an increase in worship attendance, and we are on solid ground financially. This is a warm and caring congregation. Thank you for your generosity and participation in the many activities that need your support. With great gratitude, I want to thank Pastor Deb, the staff, council, committee members, leaders, volunteers and the entire congregation for your faithfulness, prayers, generosity, caring and willingness to serve and support the mission and ministry of South Canyon Lutheran.

I have been honored to serve as your council president. As I leave council, I am filled with joy and hope as I look for other opportunities to serve and new ministries to get involved in.

Many blessings,

Diane Tschetter

Treasurer's Report

P. J. Haar, Council Treasurer

Thank you all for being a faithful giving congregation.

2024 SCLC Profit & Loss General Report (P&L):

Total Income (TI)	\$607,624.24
Total Expenses	<u>\$593,016.09</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$14,608.15

2025 (CURRENT YEAR) P & L thru March 31, 2025.

Total Income (TI)	\$173,566.04
Total Expenses	<u>\$159,843.02</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 13,723.02

SCLC account balances as of April 29,2025:

General Fund	\$119,551.46
*General Money Market	\$152,524.88
Building Fund	\$94,858.01
Savings/Trust Fund	\$42,737.37
*Savings Money Market	\$101,590.18
**Memorial Fund Money Market	\$10,002.34
Food Certificate	\$ 7,709.67
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,039.71
Total of funds	\$531,013.62

Endowment fund at Thrivent Financial	\$198,027.20
Additional funds at Thrivent Financial	\$8254.90
Total fund balance 3-31-25	\$206,282.10

***new interest bearing accounts**

**** new interest bearing account with a new memorial gift**

Property & Grounds

Gregg Brower, Property & Grounds Chairperson

SCLC Property and Grounds Annual Report

This past year has seen the completion of the following projects and repairs:

- Rain gutters and downspouts repaired or replaced
- Storage shed vandalism
- Choir loft stair edge marking
- Fellowship hall ceiling tile
- Portable grill maintenance
- Property disposal/sale tile saw
- Koinonia Kafe floor lamp
- Privacy fence on the northeast side of sanctuary
- Grab rails in stalls in bathrooms
- Kitchen fan
- Four furnaces & A/C units replaced
- Mercy room privacy lock install

Weekly walk through started in January 2025 with an extensive list of items to be inspected

I'd like to thank the many members who have volunteered their time and talents in support of maintaining our church property in top notch condition, this wouldn't be possible without all your efforts! Also, thanks to the members who continue to support the property and grounds maintenance and repair through financial gifts.

Gregg Brower

Property and Grounds chairman

Worship & Music Ministry

Ellen Shirley, Director of Worship & Music

Music

Psalm 149 "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful...let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with the tambourine and lyre."

We celebrated as we made joy-filled music to our Lord at South Canyon Lutheran Church this year! We continue to be blessed with dedicated and talented musicians of all ages that participated in -

- Sanctuary Choir, which practiced weekly throughout the program year and performed wonderful, meaningful cantatas during Advent and Holy Week,
- The Pop-Up Choir, who sang in worship once a month in the summer when the Sanctuary Choir was on break,
- Joyful Noise, which led the music in worship once a month during the program year,
- Bell Choir, a growing music ministry that rang once a month in worship, Sept – April, and boasts 15 ringers. This number includes our substitutes. A 5th octave of bells is on our wish list and would help us continue to grow this ministry,
- Wednesday Worship Band, an 11-member, intergenerational band that provided music for the Wednesday worship services throughout the program year,
- Kid's Choir, which practiced each Friday afternoon during the school year. Each week they learned about the basics of music and developed their voices. We also played music games, practiced our pieces, shared a devotional, and ate treats in the Koinonia Kafe.

We are also blessed with talented pianists and organists: Marsha Mertes, Parker Knox, Justin Matters and Mary Weidenbach.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the music program (and to the parents of our youngest musicians) for your dedication and support of these ministries! You make SCLC a music-filled house of worship.

As a continuing outreach to *Friend-Ship Preschool*, I offered a weekly *Music Time with Ms. Ellen* to the four-year-olds class. Every Monday, we sang fun faith songs with lots of motions, learned to play the colored tone bells, read bible stories, and always ended our time in prayer. At the preschool graduation celebration, we shared some of the songs we had learned throughout the year with the children's parents and grandparents.

Because of the SCLC 2020 Strategic Plan Goals regarding Community Engagement, the Dakota Choral Union continues to call SCLC "Home." Throughout the program year, DCU had over 80 members use the building on a weekly basis and their October and April concerts brought over 450 people into our sanctuary. In addition, DCU's annual Young Vocal Artist Competition was held at SCLC in March, bringing the students, their families and teachers to SCLC.

Also in March, we were blessed with an evening concert by the University of South Dakota Chamber Singers. I am very thankful to everyone who helped make their visit possible by cooking, serving and housing the 40-member choir. It was a spectacular concert that brought people from all over western South Dakota to hear this award-winning choir.

Worship

Our Worship Service Teams, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, continued to provide ushers, greeters and communion servers for Sunday worship throughout the year. This year we had two training sessions which allowed an open dialogue with all of the team members. The second session included a safety component by Officer, and church member, Eric Holmquist. I am grateful to everyone who participates on these teams, but especially to the team leaders for coordinating schedules. Mandy Mertes has replaced me as the contact staff person for the teams.

Many thanks to all of our members who served as assisting ministers, who worked the slides for worship and who streamed Sunday worship. Your services are a blessing to us all and are greatly appreciated! Mandy has taken on coordinating these services as well. At the beginning of the year, the Worship Committee presented to council a proposal for a new cross for the sanctuary. The chosen design was by Dennehey Design Co. out of Texas. The cross was approved and purchased with memorial funds, and was hung in the sanctuary on March 13 by members of the Property Team. Thank you to everyone who helped with this process. The cross is a beautiful addition to the sanctuary. Also new for Easter were the banners that hang on the east wall of the sanctuary.

Thank you to all the members of the Altar Care Team for continuing to provide services for communion and baptisms, for changing and caring for the paraments, for decorating the credence throughout the year and taking care of the chancel. Your time and commitment is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Myra Duba and Robin Cox for their assistance in helping manage all of the altar care needs!

"Gizzy and Friends" continued providing a children's message (that is - children of all ages) in worship on both Wednesdays and Sundays. This year's scripts matched the lectionary and the Bible stories that the children learned in their education classes.

Finally, I'd like to thank the staff that prepares the bulletins, slides and announcements and generally help keep things running!

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Shirley, Director of Worship and Music

Children, Youth & Family

Mona Drolc, Director of Education for Children, Youth & Family Ministries

The past year at South Canyon Lutheran Church has been a busy time for CYF Ministries. We have been blessed to **SEE** God's glory, grace, mercy, and love through Spark Sunday School, Whirly Wednesdays, Middle School Faith Formation, 9th Grade Confirmation, and High School Youth Group.

Thanks to the Education Committee who helped SEE and GROW CYF Ministries here at SCLC, they have truly shown what it means to SERVE. The committee members are: Ann Hast, Chris Lehmann, Ed Dreyer, Eric Porisch, Halima Kringen, Heidi Tennyson, Lorie Whiting, and Nichole Morse.

At the beginning of the Church year, a CYF Ministries booklet detailing the education ministries, events, and activities for the year was mailed to congregation members. Monthly activities sheets were published in the newsletter and included in the welcome bags. Weekly emails were sent to all families informing them of the events and activities for that week along with any upcoming and special events.

With our **Pre-K through 5th graders** we saw their faith **GROW** weekly through lessons, videos, and activities that helped bring the stories of the Bible to life and helps the kids to understand the Bible a little better.

- **Spark Sunday School** was brought back this year after not having it for about 4 - 5 years. This is now weekly with many families coming to Worship again on Sundays and then their kids go to learn more about God and his son, Jesus.
- **Whirly Wednesdays** follow a similar format as Sunday but the lessons and activities are different. Both Spark Sunday School and Whirly Wednesday (Pre-K to 5th grade) are following the church year lectionary which furthers the growth of a child's faith as they are hearing the same message from weekly worship.
- **Highlights** for the group are: 3rd Grade Bible event, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Program, Easter Egg Hunt, First Communion with Bread making and Painting of Chalice, and Students attending Friendship Preschool receive Jesus Time each week to learn about Jesus

Faith Formation for the Middle School has seen probably the most growth this past year. They participated in Love Thy Neighbor Community Care Projects throughout the year which included making tie fleece blankets and donating them to The Circle. Other projects were making Valentines and Crosses that were given to congregation members. Christmas ornaments were also made and handed out when we went Christmas Caroling.

- **Other highlights** for this group are: Completed Acolyte/Usher training to assist on Wednesdays, Campfire Conversations and Prayer Journals, game nights and other fun events, a dedicated space was created for them to hang out, and for the second year now, a group of kids went to Sioux Falls in February for Faith Fest at Augustana University

Confirmation is now being offered to the 9th Graders and happens during the school year from September to the end of April when Affirmation of Baptism is held.

- **Highlights** include: 19 individuals were confirmed in October of 2024, Confirmands had a Faith Mentor to assist them with their Confirmation journey, completed their Faith Statement Project, Program included: evenings to learn more about the Bible, the Creeds, Ten Commandments, and other Martin Luther teachings, other events and activities were Mentor evenings, tying of Quilts with the Piecemakers, a Mentor Celebration with the Faith Statement Projects, games with Youth Group, and other events to participate with the Youth Group

High School Group was very busy this last year as money needed to be raised for the Youth Gathering this past July in New Orleans. There were 25 individuals that flew down to attend the Gathering for a week. I expect it was an experience most will not forget. We learned what "Created to Be!" was all about. The kids worked hard doing many fundraising events and activities.

- **Highlights** include: Assisted the Elementary group, decorated pumpkins to give to our congregation members and kids, helped with Halloween Trunk or Treat and went Christmas Caroling, Jesus Joy & Junk Conversations, Bible Study, and Campfire Conversations, Wednesday game nights and Lock-in, Game night with over 30 kids attending and 5th Quarter Party after the C/S basketball game, Bible Scavenger Hunt and Extreme Bowling, Ice Cream Social with 8th Grade to introduce each other, Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast and the delicious Cinnamon/Caramel Roll Sunday, Opening of the Koinonia Coffee Bar at the end of April after school, Remodeling of Youth Room for a dedicated space with some new furniture donated by 5th & Main Furniture by Freed's, added a refrigerator for snacks, pillows were added, and was decorated.

Many other events and activities were held for all the age groups: Rally Sunday, Blessings of the BBB's, Baby Jesus Birthday Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Rush Hockey Faith Night, Campers attended Outlaw Ranch, VBS – Camp Firelight had over 70 individuals for 4 days in June, other Milestone celebrations, and a Mental Health Presentation was held for Parents, Congregation, and 6th-12th graders. Oh, we can't forget about our Dear wonderful Gizzy! All the laughs she gives us along with teaching us all about God with the many Bible stories. She is amazing for CYF Ministries, families, and congregation.

SERVE! When I see how CYF Ministries have grown this last year with all the families attending the events and activities - showing their support, **our serving hearts are seen!** Because we love God and do what He has asked us to do – love one another, CYF Ministries can continue to SEE.GROW.SERVE! We can continue to use our hands to do good, our feet to walk in His ways, our hearts to spread LOVE, and our mouths to speak words of kindness and spread His word to everyone! As we continue to grow CYF Ministries, many goals for next year have been discussed and one is to find additional volunteers for a more successful program and planning of adult education opportunities.

Friend-Ship Preschool

Rana Holland, Preschool Director

We have had a great year of learning and growth. We welcomed back four teachers: Julie Kokesh, Laura Mason, Dawn Dockter, as well as myself, Rana Holland. We have taught 30 children this school year across three different programs – Preschool 3s, a 3-day Pre-Kindergarten, and a 5-day Pre-Kindergarten.

Friend-Ship Preschool follows the South Dakota Early Childhood learning guidelines to help lay a foundation for learning/school readiness and a lifelong love of learning in our students. Our students enjoy a variety of opportunities including art, dramatic play, math, reading/writing readiness activities, music, PE, independent learning centers, and science activities.

Throughout the year we learn deeply about different topics. Some of the themed topics we have learned about this year are dinosaurs, bees, oceans, space, the pond habitat, our 5 senses, plants and seeds, and seasons.

Pre-Kindergarten is visited each week by Ms. Ellen who shares her musical talents with us. The students thoroughly enjoy singing Bible songs and learning the actions to these songs. We also learn how to play the bells with Ms. Ellen, which is a favorite!

Each class is also blessed each week by Jesus Time with Ms. Mona. Ms. Mona shares Bible stories, songs, and prayers with us. This is a weekly favorite for our students! Ms. Mona also teaches PE once a week with our Pre-Kindergarten students.

Additionally, we are able to share Jesus with these awesome little humans daily and during special times during the year. We read Bible stories, sing a daily prayer before snack, and focus on the true meaning of Christmas and Easter through stories, art, and hands-on activities.

It is our hope that all the students we teach feel loved, known, and excited to come to school each day to an inviting environment where they can reach their full potential.



Outreach

The Outreach Committee has been revitalized. The following is the new job description put together by those serving on the committee.

The Outreach Committee is dedicated to expanding our congregation's vision for mission—locally, nationally, and globally. Our goal is to connect our faith community with opportunities to serve, support, and build relationships that reflect God's love in action. Through this work, the Outreach Committee seeks to equip and inspire our faith community to use their gifts, grow in faith, and serve to the glory of God.

To accomplish this, we will:

- Stay informed about the work of other organizations in our community and share this knowledge with the congregation.
- Identify and promote opportunities to support community needs, such as campus ministry, programs for children, feeding ministries, services for the aging population, and mental health awareness.
- Collaborate with other church members to educate the congregation about mission opportunities and encourage engagement.
- Facilitate ways for our church to support organizations through financial contributions, donations of needed items, and hands-on service projects.

We will continue to work with the Ministry of the Month recipients as well as find additional ways to serve. Our first new Outreach ministry is becoming the distribution site for Feeding SD Senior Boxes.

New Outreach Ministry – Feeding South Dakota

In April, we announced that we will be partnering with Feeding South Dakota in a new feeding ministry at our church. Feeding South Dakota (FSD) conducts a program to distribute food boxes on a monthly basis to around 300 low-income senior citizens in the Rapid City area. In the past, this distribution has been conducted at the FSD warehouse location in the northeast part of town. However, because these distributions pull resources away from their normal shipping/receiving/warehousing functions, they needed to find an offsite partner who was willing to take this on. We were made aware of this opportunity, and after initial feasibility discussions, our church council approved a pilot program that will run from June-August.

During the pilot program, we will have the opportunity to learn and adjust our processes as we complete our first few distributions. We will then report back to the church council with a recommendation on continuing the program. The coordinating team that is helping to launch this new ministry includes Diane Tschetter (who is also handling our volunteer recruiting), LaDonna Hamre, Janet and Joel Petersen, Jona Hagen, Dottie Olson, Ellen Shirley, Pastor Deb, and myself.

We have chosen to run the program on Saturday and Sunday during the second weekend of each month, conducting the distribution in 2-hour shifts from 9:00 am-3:00 pm on Saturday, and 1:00-3:00 pm on Sunday. The Saturday-Sunday distribution timeframe was chosen to provide the best possible times for food recipients or their proxies while hopefully providing the broadest possible pool of volunteers for the distributions.

The distribution will be a drive-through process in our parking lot for the recipients or their proxies. To manage this, we will be recruiting people for volunteer roles including traffic control, check-in, loading, and restocking.

We believe that this new ministry is a great fit for our church for a variety of reasons:

- It responds to the continued requests from the congregation over the past several years for more opportunities for hands-on mission work. Getting to do this from our own "front porch" as a church is an added benefit.
- It builds on our past and current hunger and feeding programs that have been a central part of our mission and outreach efforts.
- It helps the community get to know us and our church.
- It helps a key community partner – because we're taking this on, Feeding South Dakota can divert resources to other food distributions they otherwise wouldn't be able to do.
- It engages us in the community, helping us to fulfill our Christian mission as a church.

We are very excited about this new ministry and hope that you can be part of it, either through volunteering, or with your support and prayers. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come, as we begin ramping up to serve those who are in need in our community.

-Tim Shirley, Team Lead

Outreach

Ministry of the Month:

In addition to the organizations our church has faithfully supported over the years, the Ministry of the Month team—working with the approval of Church Council—continues to broaden our congregation's awareness of the many ways we can serve others. By highlighting both longstanding partners and new opportunities, we seek to educate and inspire deeper engagement with a wider range of community needs.

Each month, guest speakers help us better understand the missions of local nonprofits and how we can come alongside them in support. These organizations serve critical and often underserved populations, including:

- Children and teens in foster care
- Seniors and the aging population
- Homeless veterans
- Individuals and families experiencing food insecurity
- Youth facing mental health challenges
- Expectant mothers and newborns needing prenatal care
- Women recovering from drug addiction, sex trafficking, and domestic violence

Through the generosity of our congregation—both in financial contributions and donations of much-needed items—we are blessed to make a tangible difference in the lives of those served by these ministries. Thank you for helping us extend Christ's love beyond our walls and into the heart of the community.

Free Lunch

Because we are located across the parking lots from Stevens High School, a former church staff member, Deanna Darr, wanted to find a way to reach out to high school students. Food was the logical choice. Did you know that was 22 years ago? The ministry of Free Lunch to high school students and staff continues to thrive in 2025. The ministry has grown exponentially since its early beginning, and the church has been supportive since its inception. The involvement and generosity of our congregation is amazing and appreciated.

We have established a great community relationship with our neighboring high school. They are so grateful for our kindness and generosity towards their students and staff, and know it's a safe place. They announce our monthly Free Lunch, and put the menus on the TV screens to help promote our event. We have been able to deliver a few pans of desserts to the staff most months, and they are delighted to receive them. I've been told that if I don't arrive shortly after the lunch has ended, the staff inquires if I've been there yet. High School staff rarely get treats I'm told!

In visiting with the school administration, we've learned that homeless students are part of their population, as well as families struggling with food insecurity. All students are welcome to participate in Free Lunch, so the playing field is level when they come for a free nutritious meal. Our congregation has also helped supply needed grocery items for the food pantries at both high schools and some elementary schools.

The gift of monthly Thrivent Action grants has been an important piece in helping to defray the cost of the meal. One such grant was used to buy ingredients for the Culinary Arts Class at Stevens. They were excited to be able to bake 400 desserts for us to serve at a recent Free Lunch. They don't have adequate funding to actually cook and bake. The Stevens high school youth representative to the school board spoke about this in her monthly report. A school board member confirmed that it was our church involved, and commented that this is an amazing ministry! Indeed it is! Another month, Culinary Arts students chopped and prepared all the veggies for our lunch, practicing their knife skills. They are excited to participate, contribute, and give back, according to their teacher, April Malik.

Volunteer hours are extremely important to The School of Mines Athletes. They look for opportunities to serve, give back, and find ways to connect in our local community. The Mines volleyball team has offered to help serve alongside our church members for a couple of Free Lunches this spring. They love interacting with the high school students, and our volunteers. What role models they are for all of us!

We have employed a new cook, Michelle Gab, who has offered enthusiastic support and delicious meals for this outreach ministry. No food is wasted, as the same menu is served the day after Free Lunch for our Wednesday evening meal at church. Leftover desserts sometimes supplement Wednesday night dinners as well. One month enough food was leftover to bless the Women and Children's shelter.

Our largest Free Lunch occurred last May during final exams when we served 415 students and staff. Unlike the normal lunch schedule of two 30 minute lunch periods, there is only one lunch scheduled during finals, but it lasts for an hour. It's quite an adrenaline rush to see them all arriving at the same time! Admittedly, this is an expensive, but important outreach. Lives are being touched in many ways in our community. If you've never had the opportunity to volunteer, please do. New volunteers seem to really enjoy the ministry, as the list of bakers, greeters, grillers, servers, and those that help with cleanup has grown to 154 people! You'll love the experience and the camaraderie as we welcome these young people into our Church building. **Diane Tschetter**

Small Groups, Fellowship & Outreach

South Canyon Lutheran has many opportunities to be involved in the life of the congregation and meet people through small groups. Most groups lead themselves and are supported by the church office, **Kristi Wellendorf , Teri Belton & Mandy Mertes**. The contact person for each group is listed below or contact the office. Please consider joining these groups or starting new ones!

Bible Studies are offered for anyone interested in learning more and strengthening their faith through study and fellowship.

Men's Breakfast Group meet every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Hardees on Haines. **Larry Thompson**

Women's Bible Studies include:

- Elizabeth Circle - the 2nd Wednesday in the Koinonia Kafe at 9:00 a.m. - **Barb Nelson**
- Eunice Circle - the 3rd Tuesday in the Koinonia Kafe at 1:30 p.m. - **Jo Walker**
- Priscilla Circle - has now joined with Elizabeth group and meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
- Various Bible Studies with Pastor Deb throughout the year - watch newsletters & weekly announcements

The Golf League Men's & Women's Softball are meeting again this summer for some friendly competition and fellowship. Golf night is every Tuesday at Meadowbrook Golf Course. New players can sign up weekly by contacting **Pam Carda** or the church office. Softball has room for additional players, must be 16 years old to play. Their games are played at Whitehead Field church complex. A schedule of games is posted in the Koinonia Kafe and hallway bulletin boards. **Butch Bowman**

Book Discussion Group meets the third Saturday a month to read and discuss a variety of books. The books are assigned in advance and published on the website calendar and newsletter. **Mary Bauman**

Altar Care members prepare communion and the front of the sanctuary for worship working in teams. **Myra Duba & Robin Cox**

Fix-it Crew is a group of people who help keep the church building and grounds looking and functioning well! If you'd like to share your talents be sure to contact the office to be added to this vital ministry. This has been led by Property & Grounds council member, **Bob Thompson, and Gregg Brower**, Property & Grounds chairperson

Tech team is a group of people who are responsible for streaming live worship services, running the slides and soundboard during worship. Additional people are always appreciated. Training will be provided.

Hospitality Team is a group of people who help welcome everyone to church through greeting, opening doors, welcome information center answering questions and getting to know others. This group is evolving and changing., additional members are needed to fill the weekly spots, contact Mandy in the office. Our dedicated coffee hosts, **Larry & Carol**, are also the donut hole gatherers and specialty coffee extraordinaire! Thank you!

New groups are forming this month -

- **Young Adult Small Group** Organizational Meeting Wednesday, May 28 - 6:00 pm SCLC Koinonia Room Organizer: **Matthew Wilson** This group is designed for young adults in their 20s and 30s (or anyone who classifies themselves as a young adult). The plan is to meet on the last Wednesday of the month during the summer. The activities for each gathering will be planned by those present on May 28. Choices might include social activities, learning activities, topic discussions, etc. The Koinonia Coffee Bar will be open for this gathering. Gatherings will last about an hour.
- **Senior Fellowship Small Group** Organizational Meeting Monday, May 12 @ 5:30 pm SCLC Koinonia Room Are you a "senior" person in our family of faith looking for a chance to gather for fellowship activities? This could be the group for you. (You determine if you fit this category but we are thinking around 60 or older.) The vision is to plan a variety of activities open to all seniors. Activities might include eating together, serving together, Bible study, speakers, trips, short easy hikes, or whatever we can come up with. We are looking for a small group of people willing to coordinate the chosen activities. Questions? Contact Pastor Deb.
- **Grief Support Group** Wednesday, June 4 - 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm SCLC Fellowship Hall All who are/have experienced loss of a loved one are invited to gather around the table for a meal and conversation. We will begin at 5 pm as we gather to prepare a meal and set the table while we converse. We will eat together, pray together and walk with one another as we grieve. We will make plans for the next gathering based on the needs of those who gather.

Small Groups, Fellowship & Outreach

Carol Davies - Piecemakers Quilting Group

The Piecemakers goal is to strive to reach our goal of “making quilts for people in our church, our community, and the world.” I think we have done that well. We have a group that displays care and love for each other and we enjoy our time of fellowship together. Our membership has dropped since 2020 and we would love to have some new members join us on Thursday mornings.

I would like to thank all the Piecemakers for your hard work this year. Thank you to those who came to church and to those who worked at home. During the last six months we have invited more people to help us cut squares and sew quilt tops and the response has been good allowing us to get more people involved with this ministry. We also thank members of the church who donate items that we use for our quilts and those who purchased items at our sale.

Our sales last Fall did well. After covering our expenses, we were able to donate \$3540 last year to various organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, LSS, Abbott House, WellFully, Woyatan, One Heart, Black Hills Works, Love Inc., Cornerstone Mission, and LWR.

Quilts Made and Donated or Sold

SCLC (baby quilts)	9
SCLC (confirmation quilts)	19
BrightStart (Baby)	22
LSS/New Alternatives	12
WellFully	31
Youth and Family Services	1
Cystic Fibrosis	1
Abbott House	1
LWR	50
Miscellaneous	1
Total Donated	147
Total Sold	52
TOTAL	199

Every December, the Piecemakers donate a quilt and a laundry bag filled with household supplies to each of the 12 residents at Lutheran Social Services/New Alternatives. We make pet beds out of our quilt scraps to donate to the Animal Shelter.

Church Response We support them with food donations and purchasing and selling grocery gift cards. The gift cards are available to Safeway, Family Fare, Walmart/Sam’s Club. Both SCLC & Church Response benefit from this program. By purchasing the cards at a discounted rate and sold at face value. The cards are valued at \$25, \$50 and \$100. Before you shop for groceries, prescriptions and household items, stop by the church first. People are needed on Sundays to sell these.

Additional Reports

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

As we've come to better understand the work in front of us under new leadership from Pastor Deb, the need for additional pastoral staff has become clear. So on January 19, 2025, the church council approved the hiring of an Associate Pastor for South Canyon, and shortly thereafter, formed a call committee to manage the search process.

The following individuals, who were also on the call committee for the Senior Pastor position, have graciously stepped forward to once again serve in the Associate Pastor call process: Jim Harr, Nichole Morse, Eric Porisch, Tim Shirley, Larry Thompson, and Joleen Wilson, along with Pastor Deb. This committee was introduced in the worship services on Saturday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 12, and was officially installed on Sunday, March 9.

The group then worked over the next couple of weeks to update the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that we had used for the Senior Pastor call process and to tailor it for the Associate Pastor position. We then made the completed draft available to the congregation two weeks prior to the weekend of March 29-30, when Pastor Renee would be here to preach and conduct the ministry site study (a review and discussion of the MSP with the congregation).

Because threatening winter weather caused us to cancel that meeting, Pastor Renee instead conducted the ministry site study by Zoom with the church council, church staff, and the call committee on April 8. Based on this discussion, we made some additional updates to the MSP and submitted it on April 15. It was then formally approved on April 16 and placed into the synod's online search tool. As of this writing at the end of April, we are currently waiting for initial responses.

With our great pastoral leadership, staff, and congregation, we are fully confident that our church will be an attractive option for associate pastors seeking a new call, or for potential first call pastors. We appreciate your patience and ask for your prayers for our call process, as well as for the associate pastors who are discerning God's call to them. We will continue to update you on our progress as we move forward.

In Christ,

Tim Shirley, Call Committee Chair

Personnel:

Over the past several months, the Personnel Team has engaged in the hiring process to support the evolving needs of our church. This has included screening and interviewing candidates for part-time staff positions, assisting in updating job descriptions, and making hiring recommendations for a Kitchen Coordinator and two Administrative Assistants in the church office.

We are excited to welcome our new staff members and look forward to the unique gifts and energy they will bring to our daily operations and ministry.

As we move into this new chapter of staffing and transition, the Personnel Team also plans to recommend updates to the Employee Handbook to reflect current practices and ensure we are fostering a healthy, collaborative work environment for all staff.

These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to strengthen the ministries of our church and better serve our congregation and community. Please join us in praying for our new team members and for God's continued guidance

2024-25 Council Members:

	Started	Installed	2 yr term end-date	<i>If serving</i> 4 yr term end-date
President: Diane Tschetter	June 2022	Sept 2022	June 2024	
Vice President: Mandey Tschetter	June 2023	Sept 2023	June 2025	
Secretary: Ken Bauman	June 2024		June 2026	
Treasurer: PJ Haar	Nov. 2021	Appointed Elected 2022	June 2024	June 2026
Budget & Finance: Kelly Whiting	Jan 2025 Appointed		June 2026	
Care Corps: Gary Johnson	June 2024		June 2026	
Education: Nichole Morse	June 2024		June 2026	
Outreach: Jona Hagen	June 2024		June 2026	
Property & Grounds: Bob Thompson	June 2024		June 2026	
Worship: Debra Watson	June 2024		June 2026	
Youth: Halima Kringen	June 2024		June 2026	

