



## 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



## Congratulations 2025 Graduates

### How to Get Connected

#### 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 May 2025

### Worship Service Times

- 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.



# Reflections

## Be a Dandelion!

The dandelions are popping up which means it is time to share my favorite devotion. I found this devotion during internship about 20 years ago. It made me change the way I look at dandelions. Every year when the dandelions peek out, I am reminded of how I am sent by God to be a dandelion.

### **DANDELIONS!**

*No matter how carefully I try to pull one up, I never get the whole thing. The root stays deep in the ground, threatening to grow up and blossom again.*

*But despite their bad reputation, dandelions are pretty little flowers with their yellow strands all tucked neatly into the center. And truly they are the most beautiful of all flowers when presented clutched in a child's dirty little hand. No one gets yelled at for picking them. Perhaps they grow only to be used and enjoyed by children.*

*Dandelions are ignored or attacked, never nurtured or cared for, and yet they always bloom profusely. They demand no pampering or special attention to yield their bright blossoms; they pop up in fields, in lawns, and between cracks in the sidewalk, even in the best neighborhoods. Can you imagine trying to grow them in a garden? They'd sneak through the boundaries and pop their sunny yellow faces up in the surrounding lawn. They would never stay put!*

*Christians should be more like dandelions. Our sunny yellow faces should be a reminder that simple faith has deep roots that are impossible to dislodge. Our vast number would show the world that even though we are not fancy or pampered we are evident everywhere, even in the best neighborhoods.*

*We should be as easily accessible as a dandelion. Jesus was. We need to get out of our gardens and jump across the boundaries that keep us where people expect to find us. We need to show our sunny yellow faces in all the spots that need a little brightening up – the crack in the sidewalk or the lawn of a country club. (Janice Kempe)*

Let those pesky, yellow flowers be a reminder to you this spring and all year long to **be a dandelion**. Dandelion long roots stay deep in the ground. We stay deeply rooted in our faith in the Triune God. Dandelions die within hours of being separated from their roots. We too will die a spiritual death if we are separated or cut from our family of faith. Dandelions are tough and tenacious. They adapt when needed and grow even in the toughest circumstances. Even when the world around us wants to take us out, we persist. We adapt, grow deeper in faith and in our commitment to spread God's love with our sunny yellow faces where ever we are! Thank you, all you dandelions!

*Pastor Deb Grismer*



*Our Family*

Brian, Dawn, Pastor Deb, Haylee, Tyler, Rod, Ilona, Brandon  
Our grandkids were ill and did not make it to the wedding.  
Ilona was an exchange student with us when Haylee was a junior in high school. She remains my "Ukrainian daughter".

*Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support when Haylee got married. I could feel them surrounding us the whole 10 days. The trip went smooth. The weather was beautiful. The wedding and reception was wonderful. Spending time with family and friends was priceless. Thank you, Piecemakers, for the nice gift you sent for Haylee and Tyler. It was so special. I am blessed to be a part of this congregation.*



# South Canyon Launches New Feeding Ministry!

We are thrilled to announce 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.

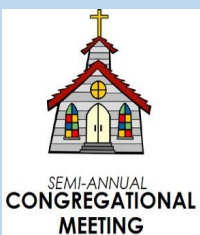
We have chosen to run the program on Saturday and Sunday during the second weekend of each month, conducting the distribution in 2-hour shifts from 9:00 am-3:00 pm on Saturday, and 1:00-3:00 pm on Sunday. The Saturday-Sunday distribution timeframe was chosen to provide the best possible times for food recipients or their proxies and to avoid traffic conflicts with Stevens High School, 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 typically need around 6-8 people per shift, with two people helping to direct traffic in our parking lot, two people checking-in recipients, and 2-3 people moving boxes and loading cars. This will be an excellent opportunity for individuals of various skills and interests to participate in an important ministry for our community.

We hope you agree that this new ministry is a great fit for our church. For many years, in our various surveys and focus groups, our congregation has expressed a strong interest in getting more opportunities for hands-on mission work. This opportunity allows us to serve our community while leveraging our own church facilities to do it. It also builds on our past and current focus on hunger and feeding programs as a central part of our mission and outreach efforts.

You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come. In the meantime, we ask that you prayerfully consider becoming part of this ministry as we reach out in Christ's love to serve our community.

-Tim Shirley



## Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting May 18, 2025 following worship

Please plan to attend 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. Council meeting will follow the semi-annual congregational meeting.

## It's Call Process Time Again

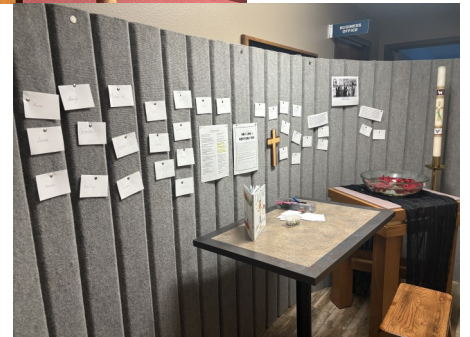
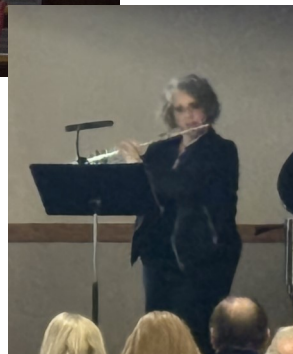
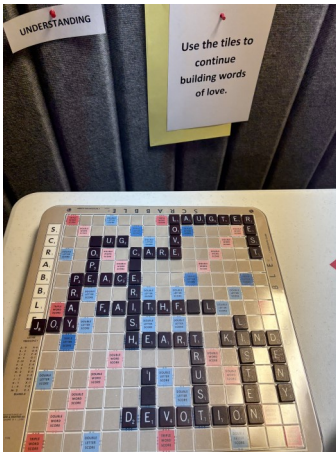
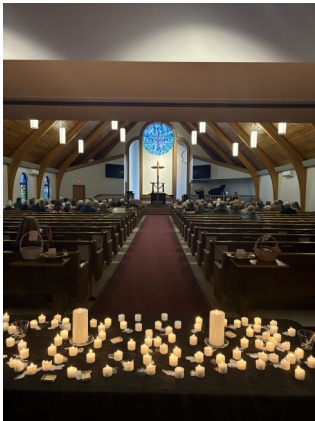
The Council has approved moving forward in calling an Associate Pastor to serve at SCLC. Thank you to those who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee: Tim Shirley, Larry Thompson, Jim Haar, Joleen Wilson, Eric Porisch, Nichole Morse and Pastor Deb Grismer.





# Holy Week & Easter

*Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!*  
*A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our Holy Week and Easter services. You helped to make them very meaningful.*  
*Enjoy these pictures from Holy Week & Easter*





# Ministry of the Month - Outlaw Ranch

## Ministry of the Month – Outlaw Ranch

Tucked into the heart of South Dakota's beautiful Black Hills, Outlaw Ranch is more than just a camp—it's a place of faith, adventure, and deep connection. Whether you're coming for a family getaway, youth camp, retreat, or a bus trip, there's something for everyone.

At Outlaw Ranch, you'll experience the beauty of creation through hiking, horseback riding, and starlit campfires. The sense of community grows as you share meals, stories, and worship under the wide South Dakota sky.

Outlaw Ranch is a destination place hosting a variety of retreats, excellent classroom spaces, and cozy lodging. The remote setting enhances the learning experience—offering both inspiration and focus.

Youth camps offer an unforgettable week of outdoor fun, meaningful conversations, and faith-filled memories. Campers grow spiritually and emotionally as they face new challenges, laugh with new friends, and deepen their connection to God.

Outlaw Ranch is proud to partner with the ELCA's International Camp Counselor Program, which brings a global perspective to camp life. Through a network of churches worldwide, international staff can join the team, enriching the experience for everyone.

Support this vital ministry with your donations—online on our website [www.sclc-rc.org](http://www.sclc-rc.org), on Realm, or by using the envelopes available at the back of the church.



# Thank You



Thank you for your donations to our February Ministry of the Month, Church Response, which will help provide food, toiletries and utility assistance for those in need.

Donation amount: \$1,281

Thank you to Vivian Fossum's family for their generous donation to South Canyon Lutheran Church in memory of Vivian and Gerald.



The monthly donation of \$1000 to Woyatan Lutheran Church supports their mission to serve, uplift and make a positive impact on the community.

Thank you for your generous donations to our December Ministry of the Month, Black Hills Pregnancy Center.

Donation amount: \$3,132.26



We were able to donate \$714.50 to our March ministry of the month, Veteran's Ministry, in addition to all of the items that were donated.

Thank you!

# 2025 Graduates



## Alle Tennyson

Graduating from Stevens High School

Future plans undecided at this time



## Alya Richards

Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending the University of South Dakota

Majoring in Special Education



## Bella Speidel

Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending Augustana University



## Ben Schumacher



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending South Dakota State University

Majoring in Animal Science; Pre-Veterinary Medicine



## Carson Rank

Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending Mitchell Technical College

Majoring in Radiologic Technology



## Chris Lehmann

Graduating from Bridgeway Homeschool Academy

Planning to work at Outlaw Ranch

and become a Security Guard



## Elli Nelson

Graduating from Central High School

Interning at Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center

Planning to attend school for Radiologic Technology

**CONGRATULATIONS**



## Emily Sabers



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending Southeast Missouri State University







# 2025 Graduates

## Isaac Haar



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending South Dakota School of Mines

Majoring in Industrial Engineering



## Jayda Gab



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending South Dakota State University

Majoring in Nursing



## Max Phares



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending Western Dakota Technical College to become an electrician



## Paxton Fisher



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending South Dakota State University

Majoring in Electrical Engineering



## Rylee Lintz



Graduating from Rapid City Christian High School

Future plans undecided at this time

CONGRATULATIONS



## Sophie Larson

Graduating from Sturgis High School

Attending the University of Iowa

Majoring in Biology, pre-dental track



## Tina Lehmann



Graduating from Bridgeway Homeschool Academy

Planning to work at Outlaw Ranch and pursue a career in Healthcare

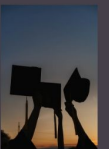


## Will Tschetter



Graduating from Stevens High School

Attending South Dakota State University



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Arioso

Rochester, MN

Directed by: Stephanie Rauh



Arioso, a dedicated homeschool choir for high school students, founded in 1996, is on a mission to instill a deep appreciation for quality choral music in its members and to share this passion with the community.

Join us in celebrating their upcoming performances and witness the magic of their musical journey.

**Concert: May 30 at 12pm at SCLC**

Tour Performance!



Rochester Area Association of Christian Home Educators (RAACHE)  
For more information, please visit [raachechoirs.org](http://raachechoirs.org)



## Free Lunch for Finals Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday May 21

Thank you for the wonderful response for help with Free Lunch in April. As high school students face the stress of final exams, they look forward to a nutritious Free Lunch to fuel their minds and bodies. We will be serving Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Unlike our other lunches, these are unique in that there is only one lunch period, so we can expect 300 - 400+ hungry students and staff to arrive all at once! It's such a high energy atmosphere and we'd love to have you serve or provide baked goods. Your participation is needed and appreciated. Please add your name to the lists provided at the Koinonia Room Tables. We ask that all desserts for both days be dropped off by Tuesday at 9:45 am.

**Menu: Tuesday:** grilled hamburgers **Wednesday:** chicken strips  
**Both days will include:** tossed salads, chips, soda, desserts  
Thank you so much!

## BELLS OF THE HILLS

### "THE LEGENDS" SPRING CONCERT

DATE: MAY 18  
TIME: 3PM  
LOCATION: SCLC

Hand Bell Choir from Rapid City

A free will offering will be collected



## thrivent®

### 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! 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

## Tom Pfeifle Memorial 2025 5k Run/Walk

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am**  
**Location: Raider Park**

More details to come in the June Newsletter



## "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" with Dr. Mark Allen Powell

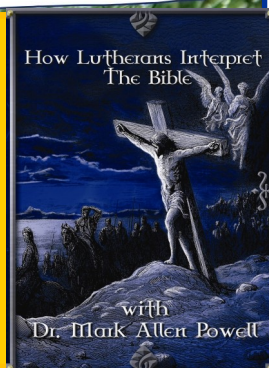
**When: Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm-May 6, 13, 27 June 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Where: South Canyon Lutheran Church Reformation Room**

**Led by Pastor Deb Grismer**

*All ages are welcome to gather to learn about a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through videos, handouts and discussion, we will discover answers to questions you may have had about the Bible. Come the weeks you are able. You are welcome to bring something to eat.*

How Lutherans Interpret  
The Bible



with  
Dr. Mark Allen Powell



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Help Needed!** We're looking for a few extra hands and hearts to help with streaming our Sunday church service.

Right now, just a small group is handling this important work, and we'd love to lighten the load by training more people to step in and serve.

## **No experience? No problem!**

We'll teach you everything you need to know – it's easier than you might think, and it's a great way to support our church family, especially those who can't attend in person. Please contact Ellen or Mandy in the church office if interested.



**GOLF SEASON IS STARTING MAY 20!**

TUESDAY NIGHTS BEGINNING MAY 20TH. COME WHENEVER YOU CAN OR EVERY WEEK! SIGN UP IN THE KOINONIA ROOM OR CONTACT THE OFFICE.

(605) 343-4887



**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**

# called

Acts 2:42-47

2025 South Dakota Synod Assembly

Four voting Members are needed to represent SCLC at the Synod Assembly on May 30-31, 2025 in Sioux Falls. Business includes Bishop elections. SCLC will cover part of your expenses. Contact Pastor Deb if you are interested in going or for more information.

## **NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES AT SOUTH CANYON LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **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. Questions? Contact Matthew at 605-415-9563 or mdwilson605@gmail.com.*

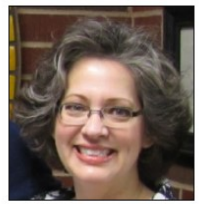
### **Senior Fellowship Small Group Organizational Meeting Monday, May 12 @ 5:30 pm SCLC Koinonia Room**

*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.*

# Director of Worship



Ellen Shirley  
ellen@sclc-rc.org

In May we celebrate a full year of our renewed **Worship Service Teams**! Thank you to all our volunteers and to our Team Leaders for all that you have done this past year to keep the Sunday worship service welcoming and running smoothly. To ease the commitment of our current team members **WE NEED MORE PEOPLE** to join our teams. We have four teams – Matthew (January, May, September), Mark (February, June, October), Luke (March, July, November) and John (April, August, December). Team members typically serve twice a month, but schedules get busy and more team members are needed. Our Greeters smile and welcome people as they enter the building. Ushers smile and pass out bulletins, collect the offering and often help serve communion, but communion serving is optional. If this sounds like something you can do \*and yes it is something you can do\* please add your name to the sign-up sheets under the office window, or let Ellen or Mandy, who works in the office, know of your willingness to serve. If you are interested in reading, let us know that, too. Thank you!

Mark your calendars for the **Pop-Up Choir** this summer. We will be singing the second Sunday of the month; June 8, July 13 and August 10. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. on those mornings and practice the piece we will sing in worship. It's always a fun time. Hope to see you there.

**Bells of the Hills**, a community Hand Bell choir in Rapid City, will be performing their spring concert, "The Legends," at South Canyon on May 18 at 3:00 p.m. The program features legends of the art of hand bells. Come hear this wonderful ensemble. (They have more bells than we have.) A free-will offering will be collected.

**Arioso**, a RAACHE homeschool choir from Minnesota, will be performing a 12:00pm(noon) concert at SCLC on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Arioso is an auditioned choir for high school students. Please come and support these young vocalists. A free-will offering will be collected.

## Congratulations Confirmands



Trevor Holmquist, Connor Broomfield, Owen Mertes, Jazlyn Caron, Solomon Erlandson and Gregory Estes were confirmed on Sunday, April 27th! Thank you to Mona Drolc, Eric Porisch and everyone who has been a part of their faith journey thus far.





# Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

## May Activities

### Senior Class of 2025



### Senior Recognition and Celebration Breakfast

Congratulations!

Sunday, May 4th



Mona Drolc  
mona@sclic-rc.org  
605-343-4887

- **All Faith Formation** Education classes will resume again in the Fall, watch your email for information.
- There are **summer events and activities** for you so watch for information.



### 2025 Vacation Bible School with SCOUT

Registration is open! Join us June 23-26 (M-Th) from 9:00 to 12:00pm, ages 4 yrs. old to 5th Grade (finished).

Sign up online or use the QR Code.

**Looking** for Group Navigators and Group Guides to assist on this great **ROAD TRIP** with Scout and God! Hope to see you...



### Sign up for Summer Camp with Lutheran Outdoors

A super fun way to experience God - God's Word Comes Near!

**IN THE HILLS.ON THE PRAIRIE.AT THE WATER.**

Visit: <https://www.losd.org> for more information and to sign up.



### A Place to Gather

Koinonia Coffee Bar is open

Monday - Thursday from 2:30 to 5:00

Coffees, specialty drinks and goodies  
for reasonable prices.

**THANK YOU** for a  
fun wonderful  
Church year!  
See you in the Fall.

## Greetings from Friend-Ship Preschool!

Our Friend-Ship Preschool Pre-K class has been learning all about bees! To go along with this unit, we were blessed with a wonderful bee presentation by Ms. LaDonna. She brought in several things to show us and teach us about her bees. We learned so much!



## Eagle Scout Project!

From Ethan Holland: Thank you to South Canyon Lutheran Church for allowing me to do my Eagle Project for your playground. 11 scouts along with 5 adults helped me build a wooden play kitchen and bench for the Preschool/Church playground. Thank you for the support!





# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9am-Piecemakers	2	3 5:30pm-Worship
4 9am-Worship (live streamed) 10am - Class of 2025 Graduating Senior Breakfast	5 1pm-2:30pm Staff Meeting	6 5:30 pm - How Lutherans Interpret the Bible	7 7:30am-Men's Bible Study	8 9am-Piecemakers	9	10 5:30pm-Worship with communion 6:30pm-Second Saturday Supper & Game Night
11 Mother's Day 9am-Worship with communion (Live streamed)	12 1pm-2:30pm Staff Meeting  5:30 pm - Senior Fellowship Group meeting	13  5:30 pm - How Lutherans Interpret the Bible	14 7:30am-Men's Bible Study 9am- Elizabeth Circle Bible  6:40pm- Joyful Noise Practice	15 9am-Piecemakers	16	17 8:30am-Book Club  5:30pm- Worship
18 9am-Worship with communion (Live Streamed) <b>10am- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting</b> 11:15am- Church Council Meeting 3pm- Bells of the Hills Concert at SCLC	19 1pm-2:30pm Staff Meeting	20 <b>Free Lunch</b> for Finals 1:30pm- Eunice Bible Study	21 7:30am-Men's Bible Study <b>Free Lunch</b> for finals 6:40pm-Joyful Noise Practice	22 9am-Piecemakers	23	24  5:30pm-Worship with Joyful Noise, communion
	Pastor Deb Out of Town					
25 9 am-Worship (live streamed) with Joyful Noise, communion	26 Memorial Day  Office and Building Closed	27  5:30 pm - How Lutherans Interpret the Bible	28 7:30am-Men's Bible Study  6:00 pm - Young Adult Small Group Gathering	29 9am- Piecemakers	30 12pm RAACHE High School Choir	31 <b>SD ELCA Synod Assembly</b>  9am- DCU Practice 5:30pm- Worship



## South Canyon Lutheran Church

700 44th Street,  
Rapid City, SD 57702

Phone: 605-343-4887

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

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Permit No. 267

May 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*

Outlaw Ranch

May 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)**