

# **Semi-Annual**

# **Report**



**South Canyon Lutheran**  
**Semi-Annual Meeting**

**November 23, 2025**

# Table of Contents

Page 3      Agenda

Page 4-6      Minutes from Congregational Meetings

Page 7      Pastor's Reflections

Page 8      Council President Report

Page 10      Ministry of the Month

Page 11      Treasurer's Report

Page 12-13      Additional Reports

Page 14-18      Financial Mission Plan

## Church Council

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>2yr Term end-date</u>	<u>Eligible for Re-election</u>
Mandey Tschetter, President	May 2025	May 2027	No
Nancy Busching, Vice-President	May 2025	May 2027	Yes
Ken Bauman, Secretary	May 2024	May 2026	Yes
PJ Haar, Treasurer	May 2024	May 2026	No
Kelly Whiting, Budget & Finance	Appointed December 2024	May 2026	Yes
Gregg Brower, Property & Grounds	Appointed August 2025	May 2026	Yes
Gary Johnson, Member at Large Community Care	May 2024	May 2026	Yes
Halima Kringen, Member at Large Youth	May 2024	May 2026	Yes
Debra Watson, Member at Large Worship	May 2024	May 2026	Yes
Jona Hagen, Member at Large Outreach	May 2024	May 2026	Yes
Nichole Morse, Member at Large Education	May 2024	May 2026	Yes

# Agenda

1. Welcome and opening devotion	Pastor Deb Grismer
2. * Approval of Agenda	Mandey Tschetter
3. *Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2025	Mandey Tschetter
*Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2025	
4. Leadership Reports	
• Pastor's Reflections	Pastor Deb Grismer
• President's Report	Mandey Tschetter
• Property & Grounds	Gregg Brower
• Ministry of the Month	LaDonna Hamre
5. Treasurer's Report	PJ Haar
2025 Financial Mission Plan Update	Kelly Whiting
*2026 Financial Mission Plan	Kelly Whiting
6. Unfinished Business – Additional Reports	
• Call Committee Update	Tim Shirley
• Constitution Update	
7. New Business	
8. Closing Prayer	Pastor Deb Grismer

(\*Requires action)

# Minutes

## Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation May 18, 2025 Minutes

“Joy” by For King + Country signaled the beginning of the meeting and gathered people back into the sanctuary.

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Tschetter at 10:21 am. A quorum was declared present as directed in the current constitution. Pastor Deb Grismer led us in opening devotions.

Pastor Deb announced she would be the recording secretary with the help of Kristi Wellendorf while Ken Bauman continued to recover from eye surgery.

**Approval of Agenda**-Desyl Petersen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ken Bauman seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2024** – Joyce Thiery made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2024 semi-annual meeting. Janet Carter seconded. Motion carried.

**Leadership Reports** – Diane presented the leadership reports individually in the order found in the Semi-Annual Report booklet. Staff members and/or Council liaisons representing each report came forward and presented three things they were most excited about concerning the past year and one thing they were most looking forward to in the coming year. They also answered any questions the congregation might have. Diane thanked committee members following each report.

### Old Business

#### Budget and Financial Update

PJ shared celebrations of \$30,000+ continued higher offerings than a year ago; \$14,000+ on the positive side at the end of 2024; we are able to fully fund our ministries and meet our obligations this year even with the addition of staff. Motion to approve Treasurer’s report made by Mary Bauman. Seconded by Gladys Storm. Motion carried.

Memorial Fund update: Kristi Wellendorf has been working very hard to determine what is memorial fund money which was lumped together in money market accounts with other funds. We have a list of money received from 2009 to present. We found a memorial fund balance from June 2021 which we used as a base for current reporting. A separate money market account has been established for memorial money only. As of the semi-annual meeting a total of \$50,903.66 is the memorial account balance. (Pastor Deb reported over \$37,000+. A friendly correction was made as she looked at the wrong number.) \$2,088.91 will be used so far in 2025 for the balance of the cross & banners for sanctuary. Pastor Deb thanked everyone for their patience. Gladys Storm thanked everyone for their work done to establish a separate memorial account and determine the amount that should be in it.

Constitution Update: Pastor Deb thanked the Constitution and Bylaw Committee for their hard work on updating the constitution. The constitution is now in the hands of the Council who will address it at their June meeting. Providing the Council moves it forward, the document will be sent to the Synod and a special meeting of the congregation will be called for the first vote to approve the document. The final vote to approve will then happen at the next semi-annual meeting of the congregation. Only the constitution is being worked on right now. The work on the bylaws will happen later. Desyl Petersen commented there is nothing controversial found in the new constitution. The committee followed the model constitution provided by SD Synod as we are something bigger.

## **Elections**

SD Synod Assembly Voting Members (up to five adults and one youth). SCLC will pay for the registration fee as well as provide a stipend to help cover expenses.

Nichole Morse, Kristi Wellendorf and Desyl Petersen were elected by unanimous ballot to be voting members. The Council was given permission to appoint other voting members if someone shows interest. Motion made to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot made by Ken Bauman. Seconded by Mike Carter. Motion carried.

## **Church Council Elections**

President Nominee: Mandey Tschetter. No nominations made from the floor. Motion made to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot by Gary Evensen. Seconded by Robin Cox.

Vice President Nominee: Nancy Busching. No nominations from the floor. Motion made to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot by Brian Jenner. Seconded by Desyl Petersen. Motion carried.

## **Nominating Committee**

We need 3 people from the floor to serve until May 2026 semi-annual meeting. Council members are Diane Tschetter & Gary Johnson. Members who either volunteered or were nominated are: Brent Zeigler, Carrie Churchill & Carol Stiles. Motion to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot made by Ken Bauman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheila Hoyer, approved.

## **New Business**

Call Process Update: Pastor Deb briefly reported our Ministry Site Profile is live and Pastor Renee Splichal-Larson, Associate to the Bishop, is combing through Rostered Leader Profiles to find possible candidates. Congregation members are welcomed to submit names of clergy to Pastor Renee, through the call committee, who will reach out to their Bishop and to them to see if they are willing to be considered for a change of call.

Thank yous

Diane thanked all of the Council Members for serving on the Council. Members included – Ken Bauman, Bob Thompson, Nichole Morse, Gary Johnson, Mandey Tschetter, PJ Haar, Diane Tschetter, Jona Hagen, Debra Watson and Kelly Whiting. Byron Mutschelknaus and Matthew Wilson were also thanked for their time on Council this past year.

Gladys Storm reported this was the most positive semi-annual meeting she had been to in her time at SCLC and thanked everyone. She also reported nine high school youth and Mona had come to St. Martens to help fill their 20 raised garden beds with dirt which they were able to do in an hour. Everyone involved was very thankful for their help.

## **Handing off the baton**

Pastor Deb introduced a new ritual of handing off a lit candle from the outgoing president, Diane Tschetter, to the new president, Mandey (Amanda) Tschetter, as a visible sign of release and acceptance of the presidency.

**Adjournment** – Brian Jenner moved at 11:20 pm to adjourn the meeting. Don Ludens seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Deb Grismer, Recording Secretary

# Minutes

## South Canyon Lutheran Church Special Congregation Meeting September 14, 2025 Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by President Mandey Tschetter with 81 voting members present. A quorum was declared as prescribed in our constitution. Pastor Deb Grismer offered prayer.

Desyl Peterson, member of the Constitution Committee, recognized the additional members of the Committee, Ken Bauman, Greg Eiesland, and Janey Oertly and thanked them for their hard work. Kristi Wellendorf, Office Administrator, was also recognized and thanked for all of her work on updating the constitution.

Desyl led those present through the changes made to update our constitution. She reminded everyone that our updates were based on the model constitution put forth by ELCA Churchwide. Conversation was held and questions were answered. Changes were made as needed.

Jim Haar moved to approve the amended constitution. Gregg Brower (and others) seconded. Hands were raised for voting purposes. 72 voted in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The next step will be to send the constitution to the Synod Office for review. We will vote on the constitution for a second time at our semi-annual meeting in May. A two-thirds vote will be needed to adopt the constitution at that time.

A By-Laws Task Force is being put together to begin looking at updating the by-laws starting in October. Please let Pastor Deb Grismer know if you would like to be on this task force. Ken Bauman has already agreed to serve.

Tim Shirley gave a Call Committee update. We have had a first interview with two candidates and have decided not to pursue either candidate. We have also been in conversation with Lutheran Campus Ministries at SDSM&T. We are open to either a shared associate pastor or a full-time associate pastor at SCLC.

Gary Evensen moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Deb Grismer, Recording Secretary.

# Pastor's Reflections

## *A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words*

I have been blessed to be a part of this congregation for a year now. I am so thankful to be here and a part of all that God is doing in our lives. Thank you for being a part of the mission and ministry of this congregation. I pray that these pictures allow you to **SEE** a glimpse of the impact that we have made as we **GROW** and **SERVE** together **FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!**



# Council President

Dear South Canyon Family,

What a blessing it is to be part of this amazing church family! God continues to shine His grace on us and through us as we grow together in faith and service. Over the past year, South Canyon Lutheran has been busy doing what we do best—sharing God’s love with our Rapid City community and with one another. We’re especially grateful for Pastor Deb Grismer, whose leadership and care continue to strengthen our ministry. A big thank you also goes out to our staff, council, and ministry committees and teams for all the behind-the-scenes work that keeps things running smoothly each week.

Our congregation has experienced growth this year, welcoming 49 new members, and we’ve seen a 23% increase in worship attendance. I am incredibly proud of all the vibrant groups and activities happening within our community. With so many exciting developments within our church family, it’s hard to choose just a few highlights.

Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries continue to flourish. Spark Sunday School attendance has nearly doubled, and Whirly Wednesday Faith Formation has increased by 40-50%. Additionally, our new Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings has been a meaningful addition. The Milestone Ministry has been renewed to include milestones for all ages, allowing each child to look forward to a special faith moment each year. These milestones offer our congregation wonderful opportunities to celebrate the growth of our young people in faith throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support of these programs.

Our commitment to serving the community remains strong. The Free Lunch Program is off to a record start, with 804 meals served in September and October, up from 596 in 2024. This ministry not only blesses our neighbors but also strengthens our fellowship within the congregation, as so many volunteers step forward to help. In October alone, 34 volunteers greeted, served, and cleaned up, while another 26 provided baked goods.

We are also blessed to partner with Feeding South Dakota, serving as a distribution center for food boxes for local seniors. Through the efforts of 53 volunteer members, we have distributed 655 food boxes in just the first four months—an incredible testament to your servant hearts.

The Fellowship Committee has brought fresh energy and fun, hosting events like a Nacho Bar after Saturday worship in October and a Souper Saturday Supper in November. They’re already planning a Christmas Lights Tour in December!

The Call Committee is faithfully continuing its work to bring an Associate Pastor to join us in ministry. Please keep them in your prayers.

As I look ahead, I’m filled with hope and joy for what God has in store for us next. Your generosity, faithfulness, and willingness to serve are truly inspiring. It’s an honor and a blessing to serve as your Council President.

Serving together in Christ,  
Mandey Tschetter

# Property & Grounds

## SCLC Property and Grounds Annual Report November 2025

In May the Property and Grounds leadership transitioned from Bob Thompson to Gregg Brower. Bob faithfully led the property committee for the past year, but with the construction of a new home and other projects going on Bob approached Gregg about taking over the Property and Grounds Committee. Gregg officially joined the council in September. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for his commitment and leadership to the Property and Grounds Committee.

The SCLC Congregation is blessed with an outstanding facility that is in great overall condition. The sanctuary, fellowship areas, educational rooms and administrative offices are all in excellent condition. Our church stands ready to accommodate the many ministries and opportunities in the future. SCLC had a great and productive year with three larger projects being completed and several smaller projects being completed as well.

### **Following is a summary of Property and Grounds activity and accomplishment in 2025:**

- \*The installation of the four new furnaces that were discussed in the fall of 2024.
- \*Installation of new gutters on the north side of the building and around the main entrance to the church and repair of the rain gutter system around the rest of the building.
- \*Mud jacking was completed in October. The concrete sidewalk on the west side of the sanctuary along with the concrete around the chimney area in the front entry way had settled over time. Sparks Concrete Lifting was hired to raise the concrete and reseal those two areas.
- \*Installation of eleven windows in the doors of the following rooms in the basement. Mary, Martha, Mathew, Mark, Luke & John along with five more in the preschool rooms.
- \*Installation of a vent in the storage room door located under the stairs by the kitchen of the gathering area.
- \*Replacing several shingle caps that had blown off the north end of the church.
- \*Replaced two large lights outside the Koinonia Kafe Entrance, new LED lights.
- \*Built plywood platforms to support the Feeding South Dakota ministry.
- \*Repaired the drywall damage to the wall and ceiling in the hallway upstairs (Outside of the men's bathroom).
- \*Repaired the privacy fence around the air conditioning units on the east side of the sanctuary.
- \*Repainted the shed that was vandalized over the winter.
- \*Remounting the handrail in the hallway leading up to the office area.
- \*There were several smaller projects that were repaired onsite that were noted by staff members and the two inspectors that performed the weekly walkthroughs.

A list of projects that are in progress as well as ones that need to be addressed is available to anyone who would like to know about the work or would like to volunteer to take on a project. There are several smaller projects to be worked on.

I'd like to thank the many people who have willingly and cheerfully donated their time to assist with these projects. The congregation has many talented members who are willing to help, and we can always use more! Please reach out to the church office or to Gregg Brower to get involved!

Gregg Brower  
Property and Grounds Chairman

# Ministry of the Month

## Our Family of Faith

Our family of faith has shown such generosity in supporting our Ministry of the Month missions. Your compassion and commitment have made a real difference as we bring awareness to the many needs in our community — from foster care and mental illness to aging, homelessness, human trafficking, veterans, and those living with disabilities.

We are truly blessed to be a blessing — serving as the hands and feet of Jesus and touching lives in countless ways. As we look ahead to the coming year, we look forward to continuing this journey together, learning even more about how we can love, serve, and support those around us.

## Financial Gifts for 2025

January	Abbott House	\$1,261.00
February	Church Response	\$1,081.00
March	Veteran's Ministry (Cornerstone)	\$714.50
April	Lutheran Social Services	\$1,400.04
May	Outlaw Ranch	\$774.45
June	Chapel in the Hills	\$787.00
July	Love INC/Clothe-A-Kid	\$1,040.00
August	Passages Women's	\$1,034.00
September	Black Hills Center for Aging	\$1188.48
October	Freedom's Journey	\$1792.20
November	Family Connection/The Circle	
December	Family Connection/The Circle	



# Treasurer's Report

## Bank account balances as of October 31:

		2025	2024
1.	(a) General Checking	\$57,273.78	\$56,232.32
	(b) Gen MM	\$154,059.58	\$151,006.85
2.	(a)Savings	\$41,523.42	\$44,372.09
	(b)Savings MM	\$63,274.26**	\$100,579.08
3.	Bldg. Fund MM	\$55,536.89	\$114,679.94
4.	Organ Fund /ELCA	In Savings MM	\$14,000 (2023 Est.)
5.	Memorial Fund*	\$74,195.37	\$0
6.	Food Certificates	\$10,235.17	\$13,051.42
7.	Samaritan Acct	\$2,039.71	\$2,761.80

\*Memorial Fund account was established in 2025 with money transferred from Savings Money Market account.

\*\*Includes Thrivent Choice Dollars for SCLC and Friend Ship Preschool

## Thrivent Choice Dollar Totals

As of October 31, 2023

South Canyon Lutheran Church - \$34,729.29

Friend Ship Preschool - \$5,552.00

## Thrivent Financial Investments

As of October 31, 2025

Stocks - \$9,674.65

Trust (Endowment) Fund - \$200,983.80

# Additional Reports

## Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

The Associate Pastor Call Committee, consisting of me, Pastor Deb, Jim Harr, Nichole Morse, Eric Porisch, Larry Thompson and Joleen Wilson, has continued the work that we began in early March. To date we have had four candidates who have applied for the role. Two of these we have interviewed but did not move forward with, one did not meet our qualifications, and one pulled themselves out of consideration due to their family's desire to stay in their current area of the country.

Based on the limited size of the candidate pool for those seeking associate pastor positions, it's likely that the pace of this search will continue to be slower than our search for our Senior Pastor position was, so we have continued to look at options to expand our candidate pool. When we had a candidate who was interested in campus ministry, we worked on a potential arrangement with Lutheran Campus Ministries for the candidate to work at South Canyon while also providing pastoral service to Campus Ministries at the School of Mines. Although this candidate did not work out for either entity, we remain open to a partnership that could potentially serve both ministries. Additionally, because of the strong educational and service-focused components of our role, we have also updated our Ministry Site Profile to include potential candidates who are Deacons (Ministers of Word and Service) as well as Pastors (Ministers of Word and Sacrament).

We are grateful for the ongoing work from Pastor Renee and the other staff from the Synod office, who continue to work very hard behind the scenes to surface new candidates for us. We also appreciate the prayers and patience of the congregation as we look to find the person that God has in store for us. We remain committed to finding a candidate who we can all feel excited about, and who will continue to help us build upon the momentum that our ministry has enjoyed over this past year. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

In Christ,  
Tim Shirley, Call Committee Chair

# Review of South Canyon Lutheran Church's Amendments to its Constitution

By Jane Pfeifle, Synod Constitution Review Committee

In August of 2025, the ELCA adopted amendments to the Model Constitution for congregations. SCLC had earlier, appropriately, started making revisions to be consistent with the 2022 version. Many of the 2025 amendments are stylistic with a couple of exceptions. Per the ELCA, any changes after August of 2025 should use the 2025 version.

The Amendments for 2025 are here with the rationale: <https://resources.elca.org/office-of-the-secretary/amendments-to-the-model-constitution-for-congregations-2025/>

The 2025 Model Constitution is here: <https://resources.elca.org/office-of-the-secretary/model-constitution-for-congregations-2025/>

The work done by SCLC is good with a few changes needed. In the event you choose to update to 2025, I've put those in **bold**. Those not in bold are the changes needed to SCLC's constitution to be in good form with the 2022 model constitution. Note: Where it is a 2025 change, I've put it in **bold**.

**\*C5.04 This is the new language: This congregation or the Congregation Council shall elect from among its the voting members of the congregation laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected ~~by this congregation~~ and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the (insert name of synod) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

Note use of laypersons rather than persons.

**\*C7.03 Rather than transfer, new version uses the word relate.**

**\*C9.02 Stylistic change by 2025: Starts as This congregation may call as a pastor only:**

**\*C9.03 a 8) after poor and oppressed, 2025 inserts: proclaiming God's love for the world,**

**\*C9.05 a 8) There is a period between congregation and or that should be removed. This is the correct language for 2022 and 2025: dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or**

**\*C9.06 in 2025 version, shall is changed to may.**

Beginning at \*C9.10 in SCLC version, the numbering got off. The model constitutions (2022 and 2025) have no \*C9.10. Accordingly, \*C9.10 should be \*C9.11, \*C9.11 becomes \*C9.12. (note that there is an *and* that needs to be removed. Continue this way through \*C9.15, which becomes \*C9.21. You will note that \*C9.16 - \*C9.20 are not used in the model constitutions.

\*C9.14 in SCLC's lacks the asterisk. Add it in once the numbering is corrected per the **2025 version**.

**\*C9.22 should replace SCLC's \*C9.16. The formatting in 2025 is slightly different.**

Again, change the numbering starting with \*C9.17 which becomes \*C9.23. Continue in that fashion until SCLC's \*C9.23 becomes \*C9.29. Note that there is no \*C9.30 used in the model constitutions, so \*C9.24 should be numbered as \*9.31.

Once the renumbering is fixed, \*C9.23 has the same change as \*C9.03 in the 2025 model constitution.

**\*C10.10. SCLC already complies with the 2025 version.**

**\*C15.01 The 2025 version has minor stylistic changes.**

**\*C15.11 makes this change: in ~~§14.18~~ \*C9.05.d**

**\*C16.02 makes this change: without change to unchanged**