

Semi-Annual Report



**Semi-Annual Meeting
May 17, 2026
South Canyon Lutheran
Church**





South Canyon Lutheran Church

Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda

May 17, 2026

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Mandey Tschetter, President
2. Opening Prayer - Debra Watson
3. *Approval of Agenda
4. *Approval of Minutes from November 23. 2025
5. Ministry Reports
6. Financial Update
7. *Constitution Adoption (2nd Vote)
8. *Elections
 - a. Church Council Elections
 - b. SD Synod Assembly Voting Delegates
 - c. Nominating Committee
9. New Business
 - a. Thank yous
10. Election Results
11. Adjournment
12. Closing with the Lord's Prayer

(*Requires action)



South Canyon Lutheran Church

Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2026

President Mandey Tschetter welcomed everyone and called the semi-annual meeting of the congregation to order. A quorum was declared. Pastor Deb Grismer opened with a prayer.

Desyl Peterson moved to approve the agenda as printed. Debra Watson seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes from the May 18, 2025 semi-annual congregation meeting were presented. Halima Kringen's name needed to be added to the Church Council members listed. Gregg Brower moved to approve the minutes as amended. Rock Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes from the September 14, 2025 special congregation meeting were presented. Desyl Peterson moved to approve minutes as presented. Janey Oertly seconded. Motion carried.

Leadership reports were presented. Reports were printed in the semi-annual booklet. Pastor Deb Grismer and Mandey Tschetter thanked the congregation for their commitment to the ministry and mission of the congregation.

PJ Haar presented the Treasurer's Report. She explained the Trust Endowment Fund was a result of a life insurance policy endowed to the congregation. We are allowed to use the interest of this account for ministry. Gladys Storm moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Debra Watson seconded. Motion Carried.

Kelly Whiting presented the 2025 Financial Mission Plan Update as well as the 2026 Financial Mission Plan. The 2026 plan included a 3% cost of living adjustment for the staff. In the past we haven't projected our income. This is a new addition to the printed plan. The Faith Growth income number was explained. Nancy Busching moved to approve the 2026 Financial Mission Plan. Janet Petersen seconded. Motion carried.

Tim Shirley presented a Call Committee update.

Desyl Peterson presented a Constitution update.

Mandey Tschetter recognized and thanked staff and Church Council members present. She also thanked all of those who volunteered their time this past year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called by Tim Shirley. Meeting was adjourned.

Those gathered closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Deb Grismer, Recording Secretary

Senior Pastor's Letter

Community of Faith at South Canyon Lutheran Church, Congregational meetings are meant to be a time to reflect back on the ministry of our congregation as well as to look forward to where we are heading in the next year. In 2020, the congregation and leadership worked hard to put together a strategic plan to affirm and live our values, wisely allocate our resources and move towards the future. The written results of this hard work have laid dormant for a few years but have recently been rediscovered. The staff, Council and myself are looking to this work to help lead the congregation forward. To refresh your memory, I share the following information with you.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

1. Mission

Mission is understanding who we are and what God calls us to do. At South Canyon Lutheran Church, our mission is:

“To See, Grow, and Serve to the Glory of God.”

Our mission statement:

- **To See** that the Good News of Jesus Christ offers salvation and hope to a troubled world and strength for daily life
- **To Grow** in our personal faith and in sharing the Good News with our community using the gifts and resources of our members
- **To Serve** by recognizing that all creation is the object of God’s love
- **To the Glory of God**

2. Lay Commitment and Ownership

Ministry belongs to all members of the congregation. Through Baptism, all are called to serve Christ by serving others. As Martin Luther said, *“God does not need our good deeds, but our neighbor does.”* Each person is called to discover their role in ministry. Long-term faithfulness depends on the congregation's commitment to this shared mission.

WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO PROMOTE AND SEEK

Quality in Our Worship Life Together

We center our community's life on Word and Sacrament. Hearing God’s Word is our priority, and clearly communicating hope to people today is our purpose. Worship nurtures our faith and sends us into the world to serve.

Quality Education

Members grow in biblical and theological understanding so they can live out their faith and share God’s love in daily life.

Quality Care and Outreach

We care for one another as God cares for us. We are an inviting community, ready to welcome and support those in need.

Quality Significant Relational Groups

Small groups provide connection, support, and opportunities to serve. They create space for individuals to be known, accepted, and engaged in ministry together.

It continues to be a joy to serve a congregation filled with hope and joy. Thank you for all you do to support the ministry and mission of your congregation. I look forward to seeing what this next year brings.

Pastor Deb Grismer

Church Council

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

President: Mandey Tschetter

Budget & Finance: Kelly Whiting

Vice President: Nancy Busching

Community Care: Gary Johnson

Secretary: Ken Bauman

Youth: Halima Kringen

Treasurer: PJ Haar

Worship: Debra Watson

Property & Grounds: Gregg Brower

Outreach: Jona Hagen

Education: Nichole Morse

President's Report

Dear South Canyon Family,

Being part of this church community continues to be a source of gratitude and encouragement for me. Over the past several months, I've witnessed God's faithfulness in many ways as our congregation has grown in worship, service, and in our relationships with one another.

Since December, we have been able to celebrate several meaningful milestones together, including welcoming 16 new members into our church family, celebrating 9 baptisms, affirming the faith of 9 confirmands, and preparing 9 youth through First Communion instruction classes.

Our commitment to serving others remains strong and continues to make a real difference in our community. The Free Lunch Program has provided 2,160 meals to our high school neighbors since December and our volunteers have contributed more than 1,000 hours of service throughout the school year. In addition, as a distribution site for Feeding South Dakota, we have helped provide 801 food boxes to seniors in our local area since December.

The Fellowship Committee continues to build connection and community within our congregation by offering opportunities such as Saturday evening suppers, bowling outings, and bingo nights. Look for more opportunities for fellowship to be planned in the months ahead.

The Call Committee remains committed to their work of seeking an Associate Pastor to join us in ministry. Please keep their process and discernment in your prayers.

I am grateful for the steady leadership and dedication Pastor Deb Grismer brings to our congregation and ministries. I also extend my appreciation to our staff, council members, and ministry volunteers whose ongoing work helps our church function and flourish each week.

As I reflect on all of this, I am thankful for the many ways God continues to guide and bless our congregation. Your generosity, dedication, and spirit of service are deeply appreciated, and I am honored to serve as your Council President.

Serving together in Christ,

Mandey Tschetter

Treasurer's Report

P. J. Haar, Council Treasurer

Thank you all for being a faithful giving congregation.

2025 SCLC Profit & Loss General Report (P&L):

Total Income (TI)	\$678,661.22
Total Expenses	<u>\$675,630.56</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$3,030.66

2026 (CURRENT YEAR) P & L thru March 2026.

Total Income (TI)	\$199,983.33
Total Expenses	<u>\$170,116.99</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 29,866.34

SCLC account balances as of April 29,2026:

General Fund	\$114,978.95
*General Money Market	\$155,459.48
*Building Fund	\$42,461.33
Savings/Trust Fund	\$41,523.42
*Savings Money Market	\$63,421.75
*Memorial Fund Money Market	\$77,954.80
Food Certificate	\$ 9,818.92
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,039.71
Total of funds	\$507,658.36

Endowment fund at Thrivent Financial	\$204,357.49
Additional funds at Thrivent Financial	\$10,629.08
Total fund balance 3-31-26	\$214,986.57

* interest bearing accounts

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:

- Narthex Room Completed
- Two new furnaces installed
- New duct work in the sanctuary area
- Relocated the memorial wall
- Removed the wooden shelving in the Pray Ground area
- Helped set up the Pray Ground area
- Repaired loose stone caps on the west side of the church
- Repaired the carpet seam on the altar
- Adjusted the bi-fold doors in Paul Room
- Installed a fly catching light in the reformation room
- Other small projects were completed during the walk-through inspections

Weekly walkthroughs that started in January 2025 were reduced to bi-weekly inspections.

I'd like to thank the members who have volunteered their time and talents in support of maintaining our church property to top notch condition. There are several small projects that need to be completed, if you are interested in taking one of them on, please let me know. We are currently working on a couple of projects that are going to cost some money, these are projects that have been discussed for quite some time now, our Building and Grounds account has seen some decline with the projects listed above. Thank you for your financial support with the building and grounds funds! Without your charitable contributions, our church would not be in the shape it is now!

V/r

Gregg Brower

Property & Grounds Chairman

Worship & Music Ministry

Ellen Shirley, Director of Worship & Music

Music

Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalm 100: 1-2

We are blessed to have a church filled with members willing to share their talents and time! Here is how they kept SCLC a welcoming, engaging, and joy-filled church -

- Sanctuary Choir sang the first and third Sundays in worship, including special Holy Days and led worship with an Advent and Palm Sunday cantata,
- The Pop-Up Choir sang once in June, July and August,
- Joyful Noise led the music for worship one Sunday a month during the program year,
- The Handbell Choir rang 8 times in worship,
- The Kid's Choir sang several times in worship on their own and with the Sanctuary Choir for the cantatas,
- Our Inter-generational Wednesday Worship Band led the music for all but one of the Wednesday worship services,
- The Inter-Generational Band led the music for a Sunday worship

To all of those who provided special music, participated in the music programs, and to those who made the commitment to bring our youngest singers/ringers – THANK YOU for having provided joy-filled music to worship! Thank you, also, to our talented pianists, organists, and accompanists!

Outreach

- Music Time with Ms. Ellen once a week with Friendship Preschool

Concerts

- Strikepoint Handbell Choir,
- Dakota Choral Union; one in October and one in April,
- Suzuki Concert,
- Rapid City Home School Music Program,
- Dakota Choral Union Young Vocal Artist Competition

Worship

- Thank you to our Worship Service Teams – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – for their continuing service throughout the year as Ushers and Greeters.
- Thank you to the members of the Altar Care Team for their continued service in preparing communion and care of the chancel. (A huge thank you to Myra Duba for all the communion bread!)
- Thank you to everyone who served as assisting ministers, who worked the slides for worship, and who streamed Sunday worship.

THANK YOU to all of these teams, who helped make our worship services run smoothly and have made SCLC a welcoming place!!

Gizzy Time provided children's messages for both Wednesday and Sunday worship services throughout the program and church year.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the office staff for their continuing support of our mission at SCLC!

To God be all the glory!

Ellen Shirley, Director of Worship and Music

Children, Youth & Family

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

This 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, 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation, and High School Youth Group.

Thanks to the Education Committee who helps SEE and GROW CYF Ministries here at SCLC, they have truly shown what it means to SERVE. The committee members are: Ann Hast, Eric Porisch, Heidi Tennyson, Diana Patosa, Diane (Sam) Forsyth, Nichole Morse, and Pastor Deb.

Monthly activities sheets are published in the newsletter and included in the welcome bags. Weekly emails are 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 see their faith **GROW** weekly through lessons, videos, and activities that help bring the stories of the Bible to life and helps the kids to understand the Bible a little better.

Spark Sunday School is in the 2nd year and going very well. This is weekly and many families are 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.

Faith Formation for the Middle School has seen the most growth this year. We added an 8th grade Confirmation class meeting 2 times/week. The attendance to Faith Fest at Augustana University in Sioux Falls also saw an increase in February.

Confirmation is offered to the 8th and 9th Graders and happens during the school year from September to the end of April with Affirmation of Baptism for the older group on the last Sunday in April.

High School Youth Group saw consistency and a lot fellowship this year. A lock-in was held with 19 attending.

Highlights include: Assisting the Elementary group, helping with Halloween Trunk or Treat, went Christmas Caroling, Bible Study, and Campfire Conversations, Wednesday game nights, Bible Scavenger Hunt and Extreme Bowling, Ice Cream Social with 8th Grade to introduce each other, Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, and Senior Recognition Breakfast.

Other events and activities held were Blessings of the BBB's, Baby Jesus Birthday Party, and Campers attending Outlaw Ranch. At VBS in June, over 100 individuals attended "On the Road with Scout" for 4 days in June. Day Camp with Counselors from Outlaw Ranch happened this year in July.

Milestone Celebrations were the newest addition to CYF Ministries starting with Baptisms going to 12th Grade Graduation. Each age group was recognized for their Milestone on Sundays and Wednesdays.

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 has continued to grow 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 will 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!

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 33 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, 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 community helpers, bees, oceans, space, the pond habitat, our 5 senses, the life cycle of a butterfly, and seasons. During our community helpers unit our Pre-K students were able to visit the Army National Guard Aviation Facility. We were also treated to a wonderful presentation on beekeeping and the importance of bees. All classes are currently observing the amazing transformation of caterpillars turning into butterflies.

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!

Additionally, we can 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

Feeding South Dakota

We're pleased to report that with the completion of our 10th distribution on April 11-12, we have now distributed 1,636 food boxes to senior citizens who are in need in our community. We are incredibly grateful to our willing volunteers who have made this ministry possible. 77 of our fellow South Canyon members have already served at a distribution, with the majority serving at multiple distributions. Please know that our collective work on this vital ministry has been greatly appreciated by our many recipients as well as our partners at Feeding South Dakota.

Our first year in this new ministry, which started in July of last year, has been a process of learning and discovery, including:

- The logistics of how to receive, store, move and distribute pallets of boxes and refrigerated cases of cheese in a church building that wasn't necessarily designed for this purpose.
- Understanding how to manage a traffic flow process for our "drive through" box distributions, keeping recipients safe and in their cars while we serve them.
- Learning how many recipients to expect during each of our distribution days, and how to adjust our inventory and volunteer roles accordingly.
- Learning how to adjust for unexpected weather, including rain, snow, and most frequently, windy days.

In addition to our faithful and dedicated volunteers, we have many other people to thank for the success of this ministry, including:

- Church council, for stepping forward in faith last year to pilot and support this ministry.
- Our coordinating team that helped figure out how we would make this new ministry work.
- Bob Thompson, for his initial ideas on pallet moving and storage that made this work possible.
- Gregg Brower and Joel Petersen, for constructing the temporary plywood flooring for moving pallets, and for constructing the amazing storage room in the Narthex to organize all of our boxes and supplies.
- Sam Forsyth, who has surprised our volunteers at more than one distribution with delicious treats!
- Ellen Shirley, for her work with me in setting up and running distributions, answering the phones on distribution days, and monitoring our refrigerators throughout the month.
- Most notably, Diane Tschetter, who has faithfully and diligently coordinated the volunteers needed for each of our distributions.

We are also continuing to work with Cheryl Bad Wound and our partners at Feeding South Dakota to find new ways to distribute even more boxes to seniors in need in our community. We look forward to this work and thank everyone involved for your continuing support of this ministry.

In Christ,
Tim Shirley

Outreach

Ministry of the Month:

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. The organizations we highlighted this past year and the money collected through regular ministry of the month offering and the addition of our Globe offering, includes:

- June 2025 - Chapel in the Hills - \$787
- July 2025 - Love INC/Clothe A Kid - \$1040
- August 2025 - Passages - \$1035
- September 2025 - Black Hills Center for the Aging - \$1188
- October 2025 - Freedom's Journey - \$1812
- November & December 2025 - Family Connection/The Circle - \$2922
- January 2026 - Family Promise - \$1089
- February 2026 - Church Response - \$1112
- March 2026 - West River Mental Health - \$1422
- April 2026 - SCLC Campership fund - \$4051

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 Ministry

As we conclude our 24th year, the Free Lunch ministry continues to flourish not just in the number of meals served, but in the bonds of friendship formed between our congregation, the students, and high school staff. A big thank you to **Diane Tschetter** for her vision and dedication to this outreach ministry!

Our neighboring high school has become a true partner, viewing our church as a safe haven. Beyond the monthly meals, our "dessert deliveries" have become a highlight for staff. This ministry ensures a level playing field for all; whether a student is simply hungry or facing homelessness and food insecurity, they are welcomed with a nutritious meal and dignity.

The impact of this outreach is a community effort:

- Our volunteer list has grown to **154 people**, including bakers, greeters, and grillers.
- We are blessed to have School of Mines athletes serving alongside us, acting as incredible role models for the youth.

Through April of this school year, we have served over **3,400 meals**, volunteers contributing over **1,150 hours**, a **Thrivent Action Team grant** for each meal totally \$2750 to help with costs.

There is nothing quite like the sight of our Fellowship Hall filled with students enjoying food and conversation. It is a powerful reminder that lives are being touched and our doors are always open.

If you haven't yet experienced this camaraderie, we invite you to join us. You'll love the experience of welcoming these young people into our church home. Contact the church office or contact person, Diane Tschetter.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee strengthens the life of the church by fostering meaningful relationships, creating welcoming spaces, and offering opportunities for connection and spiritual growth. Through intentional gatherings and acts of hospitality, committee members cultivate a sense of belonging within the body of Christ.

This past year has found the Committee busy hosting Saturday night suppers once a month. Anywhere from 25 to over 100 people have participated in these meals. It is heartwarming to see and hear the Koinonia room alive with people sharing a meal and fellowship. Pizza and bingo with the Ups of Downs Family Support Group was the most popular night. We look forward to having more bingo nights in the future.

The Committee also hosted the reception during the Dakota Choral Union choir concert which was well received. A small but mighty crew cleaned up the drainage and culvert area near Pinedale Elementary. We sponsored a tour of Christmas lights and an afternoon of bowling at Meadowood Lanes.

We are looking forward to sponsoring a variety of events to connect others and build relationships among the congregation. We welcome new members to the Committee at any time.

Small Groups

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 & 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**
- Various Bible Studies and worship opportunities through out the year - watch newsletter & announcements

Adult Discussion Group meets each Sunday after worship in the Reformation room. **Craig Alberty**

Book Discussion Group meets on the third Saturday each 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 work in teams to prepare communion and the front of the sanctuary for worship. **Myra Duba & Ellen Shirley**

Men's & Women's Softball are meeting again this summer for some friendly competition and fellowship. The teams have room for additional players, must be 16 years old to play. Their games are played at Whitehead Field church complex. A schedule of games will be posted in the Koinonia Kafe and hallway bulletin boards. **Butch Bowman & Emily Stark**

Golf is no longer an 'organized' league each Tuesday at Meadowbrook Golf Course, however, if interested in playing once in awhile contact **Pam Carda** or the church office.

Small Groups

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 the church office. Our dedicated coffee hosts, **Larry & Carol**, are also the donut hole gatherers and specialty coffee extraordinaire! Thank you!

Wednesday Evening Meal team is a group of people who prepare, serve and clean up the Wednesday meals during the program year. We have a faithful bunch who come in each week to complete various tasks, fellowship and serve the congregation! Consider joining this fun bunch! Contact the church office or talk with **Diana Patosa**, Kitchen Coordinator.

Linda Caron - Piecemakers Quilting Group Our Mission - to help our brothers and sisters, wherever they may be.

Our wonderful group of ladies continue to show up and work hard every week. We encourage creativity from everyone and enjoy all the ideas for quilts and other products. Last year our fall sale was the best one we have had so far, earning over \$6500. With that money, we have donated to many charities.

So far, we have given the following: \$1000 SCLC youth; \$200 each to Meals on Wheels, Feeding SD, School of Mines food pantry, West River Mental Health, Chapel in the Hills, Passages Transitional Living, WAVI, Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, Woyaton Lutheran Church and LSS. We continue to revisit our charitable groups each month.

This year we have completed:

- 52 - Lutheran World Relief quilts and are getting ready to send them out. We will donate a quilt to the trucking company for delivering these for us for free!
- 12 - Confirmation quilts
- 4 - General quilts
- 11 - Baby quilts

Several items have been brought in by our members, including table runners, Halloween pillowcases and bags.

We are fortunate that most everything is donated to us, which helps minimize our expenses. We have recently purchased a new step ladder, scissors, needles, ironing pad and other minor necessities to help us in our craft. We have set aside some money for long arm quilting of some nicer quilts. We work hard not to have waste, making pet beds from our scraps, giving empty spools to the church for crafts, and creating new items to use up some of the stuff we formerly threw away. We also donate items to other organizations that are given to us that we cannot use and are in good shape.

This year we are working on new ways to include church members in some of our activities, starting with Inspiration quilts that we hope to display for you to see. We invited the senior high kids to participate in this one Wednesday night, along with the church staff and quilters. The middle school youth helped tie LWR quilts as part of a service project. We have invited high school youth to join us this summer on Thursday mornings. Come join us when you can!

Additional Reports

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

The Associate Pastor Call Committee (Pastor Deb, Jim Harr, Nichole Morse, Eric Porisch, Tim Shirley, Larry Thompson and Joleen Wilson) has continued to work diligently on the search that we began in March of last year. To date we have had seven candidates who have applied for the role.

- Three of these we interviewed but did not move forward with.
- One removed themselves from consideration prior to interviewing due to their family's desire to stay in their current area of the country.
- One did not meet our minimum qualifications.
- One we interviewed and then hosted for a second onsite interview, but ultimately did not move forward with.
- One was a strong candidate that we interviewed and were going to quickly move to the next phase, however, they removed themselves from the process, as they were ultimately seeking a more senior role.

One reality we are working with is the fact that there are simply fewer new clergy graduating from seminary, which has traditionally been one of the most likely sources for associate pastor roles. At the same time, more and more pastors from the Baby Boom generation have been retiring, creating a significant demand vs. supply imbalance. In fact, one study shows that in the ELCA between 2015 and 2023, 1,914 men and women were ordained, while 3,563 pastors retired. This dynamic is not unique to pastoral roles, as other occupations face this same reality.

To adapt to this reality, we have also opened our search to Deacons (Ministers of Word and Service) as well as Pastors (Ministers of Word and Sacrament). We have also worked out a potential arrangement with Lutheran Campus Ministries for the candidate to work at South Canyon while also providing quarter-time pastoral service to Campus Ministries at the School of Mines, but only if the candidate feels called to do this type of ministry. In addition to creating a new potential outreach ministry opportunity for our church, as well as a partial offset to their compensation at South Canyon, this partnership has also generated particular interest for some of our candidates. We also remain open to other creative approaches and options as they present themselves as we continue our search.

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 and a half. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

In Christ,
Tim Shirley, Call Committee Chair

