

SCANDIA LUTHERAN

Worship Windows

September 2026

RALLY SUNDAY!

Sunday School will start on September 13, 2026.

If you are willing to teach, please contact

Ashley Gerken(605-403-3239)

or the church office at (605-563-2458).

We are also looking for

Teachers & Pancake Flippers!

Prayerfully consider all of these open positions.



CONFIRMATION begins

September 16, 2026, 5:30pm 7th graders & 6:30pm 8th graders

PASTOR ELAN'S MESSAGE

Having hard conversations. Who wants to have those? Let's vote to talk and laugh only with people who think as we do, act as we do, and will agree with everything we say. Right? This is not what we are called to do, and for a good reason. Peter and Jesus have a disagreement.

In our gospel for August 30, 2026 (Matthew 16:21-28), Jesus tells his followers they need to take up their cross and follow him. In the first part of the scripture, Matthew records that Jesus showed them he would suffer, die, and rise again on the third day. Peter speaks for all of us when we don't want to do what Jesus is calling us to do, and we disagree, "No thank you, Jesus." Only Peter does it with more enthusiasm... The word rebuke may be translated as censure, admonish, or forbid. A very firm no from Peter. I can almost imagine Peter saying something along the lines of, "NO way in hell will this happen to you, Jesus!" Only it ended up being a yes-way, and right through the very gates of hell. It turns out we can add, "Thanks be to God," because Jesus's refusal to listen to Peter saves the world.

Jesus goes on to tell his followers they need (and by extension, we need) to take up our cross and follow him. All of us are left wondering: what does this look like? Fortunately, Paul spells it out for us in his letter to the Romans: in Romans 12:9-21, "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (NRSVUE)

Jesus showed us what to do. It is not easy, but it is life-changing. Taking up our cross to follow means we might have to give up having the last word; it might mean not only stopping our gossip but retelling stories to make the other person look good.

It means helping those we would rather not associate with. Forgive those we do not want to pardon. Taking up our cross looks different for each of us; it is a daily process. Fortunately for us, God promises we do not walk this path through the valleys of the shadows alone.

Blessings Pastor Elan Ashby



VBS 2026

The Celebration Breakfast honoring the participants in the Summer Reading Program sponsored by our Scandia Library will be on September 27, 2026. The Celebration Breakfast and awards were made possible through a Thrivent Action Team Grant.

BIBLE STUDIES at SCANDIA

These Bible Studies will be starting up in September. Check the calendar.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bible Study with Brent; studying ways to look at the Gospel

It is the 1st & 3rd Sunday at 1:30pm.

Men's Bible Study;

Saturdays at 8:00am It will begin on

Saturday, September, 19.

50 Hebrew Words; 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 10:30am.at the Parsonage.

Women's Bible Study- Ruth Circle meets the 3rd

Tuesday at 9:30am beginning September 19.

Women's Bible Study- Rachel Circle usually meets the 2nd Wednesday at

There is a cart in the back of church to drop of your LWR items.

BRENT'S MESSAGE

Romans 16:16 - Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

Romans 16:25-27 - Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

In this last chapter of Romans, the Apostle Paul proffers an extensive list of greetings - a list longer than what most of his other letters contain. It seems he and his companions were well acquainted with many believers residing in Rome. Paul has a history with many of these folks. We know of his familiarity with the Gospel preaching team of Priscilla and Aquila. They were a wife and husband and involved with the same trade as Paul. You can read more about them in the book of Acts. Paul greets many others that are friends and some kinsmen (likely Messianic Jewish believers). We can discern here the composite nature of the Roman church, comprising a core of Jewish believers with other Gentile converts to Christ surrounding. We do well to remember our own church is composed of many different people from many different backgrounds. Paul, in the midst of this, often reminds his readers to be careful about divisiveness and misunderstandings. In this last chapter he advises his friends in Rome to be careful not to attach themselves to people causing division.

But Paul is also confident that God will establish His church according to what has been revealed in His prophetic Scriptures. Paul's final doxology is a praise of the glorious, eternal and wise God. God is indeed all these and more. Wisdom beyond us is what the Apostle is thinking of as he ends this magnificent letter - God's wisdom. It is that wisdom which sees beyond the present into the future that will guide the Church farther than Paul or any in his time could have imagined. Wisdom to guide through persecutions. Wisdom to guide through wars and even the crumbling of the Roman world. Beyond, past barbarian invasions, theological struggles, the discovery of a new world and up to today. For Paul the future was not uncertain even though it was not known. The future was and will be certainly good because Christ is in charge and is building

The crafts
were awesome
Thank you
Heidi &
Elaine.



Thank you
Pastor
Elan for
the won-
derful
lessons in
Psalm 23!



Thank you to the kitchen crew who served
great meals.



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm AA	2 11:15 CCRC Worship Service 7:00pm Rachel Circle	3 9:30 Coffee Hour	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 1:30 Bible study with Brent	7 9:30 Coffee Hour	8 7:00pm AA	9 11:15 CCRC Worship Service	10 9:30 Coffee Hour	11	12
13 8:45am Pancakes 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	14 9:30 Coffee Hour	15 9:30 Ruth Bible Study 7:00pm AA	16 11:15 CCRC Worship Service/ 5:30pm & 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30 Council	17 9:30 Coffee Hour 5:00 Grief Class	18	19 8:00am Men's Bible Study 1:30pm 50 Hebrew words
20 8:45am Pancakes 9:15 Prayer Partners meet 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/ Pet & Equipment	21 9:30 Coffee Hour	22 7:00pm AA	23 11:15 CCRC Worship Service 5:30pm & 6:30pm Confirmation	24 9:30 Coffee Hour 5:00 Grief Class	25	26 8:00am Men's Bible Study
27 8:45am Reading Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Reading Awards	28 9:30 Coffee Hour	29 7:00pm AA	30 11:15 CCRC Worship Service/ Buffett 5:30pm & 6:30pm Confirmation			

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Scandia Council held its regular meeting on August 26, 2026. Members present included Chuck Oster, Daniel Knutson, Connie Petersen, Vonn Knutson, Char Adamson, Joyce Vasgaard, Philip Christofferson, Ruth Stevens, Kory Muller, Shane Rist, and Pastor Elan.

President Chuck Oster called the council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Kory gave devotions.

The council reviewed the minutes of the July 15, 2026, meeting and the July Treasurer Reports. Daniel made a motion to approve the minutes and reports, seconded by Char; motion carried. Financial Secretary's report was reviewed.

Motion was made to enter executive session at 7:43 pm. Council was declared out of executive session at 8:03 pm.

President's Report – Chuck updated Council members on youth group leadership at Scandia and the need to keep encouraging students to participate in church and other activities, including possibly attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering that will be in Minneapolis in June 2027. Scandia needs youth group leader(s), and an effort will be made to find someone to do that. He suggested various options for organizing youth group and events for council to discuss.

Chuck recommended promoting an informational meeting presented by Kathy McHenry of Lutheran Planned Generosity, affiliated with the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, for anyone with questions about giving to the church and the available options.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Elan

This month's Meat and Meet was Fair Food (hamburgers, brats, and corn on the cob, plus the wonderful stuff everyone else brought and shared! It was Sunday evening, August 23 at 5:00. We were able to host at the parsonage as, sadly, it did not rain. I think it is safe to say we all had a great good time. Around 30-plus attendees. Last month, at Christmas in July, around 50 attended in the Church Fellowship Hall. I could see us doing this every year!

Right now, we are looking at September 27 for our next M&M. If you have menu suggestions, please let us know!

VBS was well attended, thanks to all who made it possible. Good times were had! Ministry happened; thank God.

Beginning in the fall and continuing for the school year, SE Pastors' Conference meets on the first Tuesday of the month. On September 2, Trinity in Vermillion is hosting; Scandia will be hosting on October 6 at 9:30 a.m. I have asked Courtney Hansen if the Café on Broadway will be open for reservations; if not, Brent and I will serve a meal here.

Thursdays include monthly Zoom Calls for Dean's meetings, Rotary every other week, and Good Grief weekly. On September 27, we are helping with golf cart rides at CCRC.

Thursday, August 27, I attended Support to Ministries at the synod office in Sioux Falls. I am acting secretary for this group.

On August 26, Brent and I hosted a farewell party for Pastor Kurt Lannkowsky at the parsonage. His last Sunday is August 30.

On August 21-22, we attended a class in Aberdeen, SD, "*Everything Isn't Terrible*." It was very informative! It focused on Family Systems and how to have hard conversations, which is very timely today. Actually, it's a great skill to nurture at all times, and something we could all benefit from.

I was able to enter a few items in the Turner County Fair, and with a huge thank you to Joyce Vasgaard, I got them all home again. (I had no idea how much it would involve.) Screenshot of animal and machinery pictures for Blessings on September 20th. Please submit ASAP!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Vacation! We will be going to California on August 31, home on September 12, and leaving again on September 13 for Fall Theological right after the service. Pastor Carroll will be doing the service on September 6th while we are gone. (Thank you, Pastor Carroll!)

Reports: Education:

Sunday School starts September 13 (Rally Sunday).

Confirmation begins September 16.

VBS went well and had 35 children participating.

Ministry Team:

Men's Prayer Breakfast starts September 19 at 8:00 am.

Scandia will be serving the West Side Banquet in Sioux Falls on September 23 and need 5 volunteers to arrive at 2 pm to prepare food, and 15 volunteers are needed at 5:15 pm to serve the meal.

Fall Basket Bazaar will be held on the first Sunday in November (Nov. 1, 2026).

Property:

Bids are being obtained for the fellowship hall carpet to determine funding needs. Daniel has been fine-tuning the sign in front of the church to determine the best visibility.

Worship and Music:

Worship services will be at 10:30 am beginning on September 13, 2026.

Blessing Sunday is September 20, 2026; send pictures of pets and farm machinery. The Music Committee has been meeting regularly to select music for services.

Old Business: The moisture-damaged flooring in the west hallway of the Fellowship Hall has been repaired as approved by the council, and one box of extra flooring is available for future repairs.

The carpet tiles that match the basement tiles recently purchased at a large discount have been picked up and stored for use on the indoor ramp.

New Business: September 20, 2026, is Blessing Sunday. Anyone can send pictures of pets or machinery to Sherrie (605-530-7910) so they can be put on screen for the blessing. Council discussed scheduling an informational giving meeting for members. Chuck will contact Kathy McHenry of Lutheran Planned Generosity to set up a meeting at Scandia. Council was told that a group of Vermillion churches has scheduled a *Todd Becker Foundation* Program at Vermillion High School on September 23, 2026, from 7 pm – 9 pm. The foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire high school students and emphasize the importance of making good choices. Council discussed encouraging students to attend this event.

Pastor indicated that 8th Grade Confirmation students are encouraged to help serve the Banquet as part of their community service hours.

Council discussed Scandia's need for youth leaders and possible options, including involving some of the older youth. Kory, Daniel, and Pastor Elan plan to meet with a potential youth group leader to discuss needs and options.

Pastor informed Council that the SE Conference Pastor's Meeting will be held at Scandia on October 6.

The next council meeting will be held on Sept. 16 at 7:30 pm, with Connie giving devotions. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Stevens, Council Secretary



Our amazing Music Leaders!



Thank you to all who made TREATS for VBS!



On Thursday we went to the CCRC and sang! The VBS program was that night too! Everyone had a FUN time. Thank you to all that helped so we could have VBS!



Altar Guild
Kathleen Blake &
Jen Knudson
Communion Assistants
Warren & Cheryl Drew

USHERS for September

- 6. Allen & Kathy Skotvold
- 13.
- 20. Steve & Vonni Knutson
- 27.

READERS for September

- 6. Cynthia Marohl
- 13. Chuck Oster
- 20. Vonni Knutson
- 27. Jean Smith



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE for September

- 6. Isaih Perry & Bryer Martz
- 13. Ellie Mark & Brooke Blake
- 20. Miles Stevens & Bryer Martz
- 27. Walker Bendert & Turner VanHull



This is a requirement for your confirmation. If you cannot acolyte when you are scheduled, you must find your own replacement and let the church office (563.2458) know by Thursday so it can be posted right in the bulletin.

If you would be able to usher a Sunday in Aug, please call Allen Skotvold @ 605-359-9793.



School starts Aug 24, 2026

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is wrong, please call the office @ 605-563-2458 or call/text Sherrie 605-530-7910.

Thank you for your patience!

September BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



September 1

Kory Muller

September 2

Hogan Hybertson

September 3

Jeannie Hoagland

Carter Gust

Ember Swift

September 4

Cheryl Stevens

Kevin Hecht

September 6

Tom Cunningham

Phillip Eide

Brody Pingrey

September 7

Cynthia Marohl

Justin Nelsen

September 8

Mark Christofferson

September 9

Nick Pingrey

Chase Gust

September 11

Ron Carlson

Kristie Pingrey

Addison Buckneberg

September 12

Paul Peterson

Kaitlyn Skotvold

Heather Knudson

Haley Meyer

McKenzie Carstensen

September 13

Kim Preheim

Kiera Austin

September 14

Susan Royle

Melissa Buckneberg

Cody Van Hull

September 15

Jessie Bendert

September 16

Doug Stevens

Andrea Anderson

September 17

Paul Christofferson

September 18

Ryan Olson

September 19

Gary Williams

Sadie Barrows

September 20

Matt Bendert

September 21

Alli Mark

Kinsley Nelsen

September 22

Steve Leslie

September 23

Heidi Austin

Shelli Eide

Michael Moore

September 25

Tim Eide

Christopher Swift

Patricia Eide

September 26

Judy Hookie

Tony Pingrey

September 27

Camden Muller

September 28

Helen Thompson

September 29

Allie Kotek

Paisley Sikkink



September 2

David & Marsha Rist

September 3

Odell & Dorothy Overgaard

Dan & Kyla Knutson

September 4

Scott & Kristie Pingrey

Jared & Christe Hybertson

September 6

Mike & Becky Moore

September 14

Steve & Vonni Knutson

September 15

Cory & Beth Simonsen

September 20

Nick & Rachel Martz

September 23

Tim & Kim Eide

September 26

Kevin & Lori Hecht

September 30

Shane & Dana Nelson

Adam & Courtney Hanssen