

# *Worship Windows*

## *May 2026*



Eight Seniors from Scandia Lutheran Church will graduate on  
May 16, 2026.

We had fun tying the quilts with their families. On  
May 10, 2026, they will be receiving their quilts in church.  
The quilters have this wonderful ministry and share their talents.  
The seniors will take their quilt with them to remind them  
that their church family is with them for a life time.

The Seniors are: Jake Austin, Madison Carstensen, Tessa Eide,  
Josiah Knutson, Taylor Lindgrin, Noah Schoenfelder,  
Hunter Swift, and Harper Wattier.

Many blessings and we can't wait to see the path God has for  
each of you!

Donations are needed to continue this wonderful quilt ministry.  
The cost for materials each quilt is \$75.00 and many volunteer  
hours. Please prayerfully consider donating to this fund. Many  
Scandia members still have their quilts and are their favorite.  
One gal said, "Everyone in the house knows that's MY quilt!"

I gave this message on May 22, 2016, just a few days before my husband of almost 30 years passed unexpectedly. None of us can tell the future, what lies ahead of us. But we trust in the God who does know. The God who answers prayers we did not know to pray.

Scriptures: [John 16:12-15](#), [Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31](#), [Psalm 8](#), [Romans 5:1-5](#).

Precious Creator God, All of creation looks to you, the songs of the birds, the low of the cattle, serenade you. The plants and flowers and trees dance in cadence with the wind, moving and swaying before you, revealing their secrets. Help us learn from them and care for them and for each other. In Jesus name, amen.

There is so much going on in this world. People may think that the vast universe is the only place we can make new discoveries, and certainly, the untold galaxies have their mysteries. God has blessed us here on this planet, and even after all of these years and centuries, creation has not revealed all of its secrets. Often, it seems, God answered our prayers before we had prayed, and the answer is right beneath our noses. For instance, in the news this past week, there was talk about a plant (Jackfruit) in India that could feed and save the population from starvation. It has been known for years and overlooked because it is known as the poor man's fruit and has a pork-like smell. It tastes sweet, one person said, like a cross between a pineapple and a sweet potato! With new recipes and processes, this prolific fruit may change the landscape for available nutrition. Here is a site where you can read a little more about it and the exciting things they are doing to change its popularity:

<http://food.ndtv.com/food-drinks/jackfruit-poor-mans-fruit-goes-to-waste-in-meghalaya-693456>

Hey, years ago, you could get chicken wings for almost free. Then somebody discovered how to make buffalo wings, and now they cost as much to buy as chicken breasts!

This is one site of many; you can read more about George Washington Carver: <http://www.truenorthquest.com/george-washington-carver/>

George Washington Carver reportedly prayed, "Mr. God, show me the secrets of your universe." To which God replied, "Little man, you are too small to know the secrets of my universe, but I will show you the secrets of the peanut." I have heard a couple of different versions of this prayer, so this might not be the exact conversation, but perhaps close enough. George Washington Carver's story is fascinating. This intelligent, articulate, gentle man saved the South in its day, and perhaps the world if we stretch out all of the places his contributions to horticulture and soil nutrition reach. He shared his knowledge with those who would listen, not just about the peanut and all it could do, but about crop rotation and restoring nutrients to the soil. About the uses of sweet potatoes. Here is what you may not know, but even if you do, it bears highlighting. George

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 65:24, Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. (NRSV)

Prayer attributed to George Washington Carter

Washington Carver was black. He was black in a time when being black was especially hazardous. Once, he was invited to serve as the keynote speaker at a prestigious conference. Because of the prejudices of the day, he was not allowed in the main entrance of the hotel and had to go around back to the servants' entrance. He could have gotten angry and left. He stayed. He gave his speech and willingly shared his knowledge with others. This isn't recorded anywhere as far as I am aware, but I can surmise that a place with a servants' entrance would also have whites-only water fountains and whites-only bathrooms.

I believe God gives wisdom to those who ask. In our gospel we hear this promise from Jesus, John 16:12-15, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (NRSV)

When we come before the creator of the universe, come with confidence that God hears you and God cares about you. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

In this morning's message, I shared with you about George Washington Carver; let me share with you about someone whose story you may be more familiar with. Joseph. Joseph of the coat of many colors. While Joseph's older brothers were out herding sheep and getting into trouble, Joseph was kept at home and educated. This was a reverse of the normal order; usually, it was the older son(s) who were groomed for the family leadership position. It would have been a contentious source of jealousy no matter how it played out, but it was especially egregious because it was not the way things were usually done. And Joseph may not have been modest about his elevated status. Which, to make a long story short, got him sold into slavery by his not-so-loving brothers. Later, he was tossed into prison for a crime he did not commit. Then, compounding all of this, when he asked for a favorable mention after correctly interpreting dreams, he was forgotten. Joseph may well have spent some time moaning about the unfairness of it all. Possibly, he plotted revenge on his brothers while he languished helplessly in one prison or another. But, predominantly, he did something else. He used the tools he had to improve his environment. If you read his story in Genesis 37, you will also read the words "God was with Joseph." Ultimately, the skills he learned while being home-schooled, the skills that the Holy Spirit taught him when he opened his heart to learn, saved a continent of people.

Like George Washington Carver would do centuries later, Joseph did not let the unfairness of life and circumstances stop him from doing what he could. Sharing what he had. God's fingerprints are all over the place. While we are still praying, God is answering our prayers. God hears your voice.

Blessings, Pastor Elan



# Holy Humor Sunday!



## FROM THE PAGES OF SCANDIA LIBRARY

Scandia Library Summer Reading Program is fast approaching, and we are ready with some new book titles. The program runs from June 1st - August 31st, and it's for children of all ages. The sign up is easy; put your name on a reading log in the library during the month of May. Read books from Scandia Library during the summer months. Preschool through 2nd grade requirement is 10 books. Third grade on up will read ten sessions of 15 minutes each or an equivalent of 150 minutes.

The new books are:

God's Masterpiece by Elisabeth Hasselbeck

Deep Breath, Little Whisper by Scott James

Backyard Horses by Dandi D. Mackall

Slam Dunk by Matt Christopher

Cookies- Bite Size Lessons by Amy Rosenthal

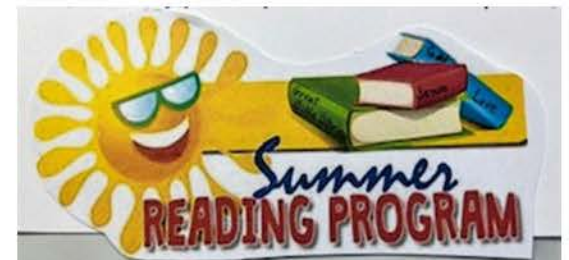
I Can Read Books: Noah and God's Great Promise

Baby Moses and the Princess

Queen Esther Saves Her People

Who Wants to Be a Pirate? (VeggieTales)

Come get involved in the reading program - It's Easy! It's Fun!  
There will be prizes!





# may 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 8:45am Pancakes 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	4 9:30am Coffee Hour	5 7:00pm AA	6 11:15am CCRC Worship Service 5:30pm & 6:30pm Confirmation	7 9:30am Coffee Hour	8	9
10 8:45am Pancakes 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/ Senior Quilts	11 9:30am Coffee Hour	12 7:00pm AA	13 11:15am CCRC Worship Service 7:00pm Rachel Bible Study	14 9:30am Coffee Hour	15	16
17 10:30am Worship	18 9:30am Coffee Hour	19 9:30am Ruth Circle 7:00pm AA	20 11:15am CCRC Worship Service/Bufferet 7:30 Council	21 9:30am Coffee Hour	22	23
24 10:30am Worship 6:00pm M & M	25 9:30am Coffee Hour	26 7:00pm AA	27 11:15am CCRC Worship Service	28 9:30am Coffee Hour	29	30
31 9:30am Worship						



# Holy Baptism of Nevaeh Hope Catori Bendert

**Born**  
**November 3, 2021**  
**Baptized**  
**April 25, 2026**



**Parents: Matt &  
Nichole Bendert**



**Sponsors:**  
**Davin, Jessie,**  
**& Walker Bendert**  
**Blake & Amber Story**

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Scandia Council held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Council members present included Chuck Oster, Daniel Knutson, Ruth Stevens, Connie Petersen, Shane Rist, Char Adamson, Philip Christofferson, Vonni Knutson, Kory Muller, and Joyce Vasgaard. Pastor Elan joined the meeting in progress.

Before the council meeting, members attended a Zoom session led by Kathy McHenry from the Synod office to learn about giving options that support the church's mission and also benefit donors.

President Chuck Oster called the council meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Daniel gave devotions.

Council members briefly discussed information presented on endowments during the Zoom session.

A family joined the Council to discuss items being given to the Church Library in memory of a loved one. The family requested permission from the Council to have a small nameplate placed in the library in recognition of memorials given. Vonni made a motion to have the decorating committee work with the family to place a small plaque in the library; Kory seconded the motion; the motion carried. The family thanked the council for their time and then left the meeting.

The Council President had requested that agenda, minutes, and financial reports be sent to members to review before meetings. After discussion, the Council agreed to continue providing printed copies at meetings and to email minutes and reports to members when they are completed each month for review.

Secretary's minutes from the March meeting, financial secretary's report, and treasurer's reports were reviewed. A motion to approve minutes with corrections as noted, and financial reports, made by Char, seconded by Daniel; motion carried.

**President's report:** Chuck thanked Shane Rist for sweeping parking areas and thanked everyone who helped with Easter events. Thanks to Dr. Darrell Mark for Lenten services and those who served the lunch after Lenten services, those involved in presenting the "Living Last Supper" at the church, and all those that helped with the Easter Services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter) and brunch served after Easter morning service.

Chuck updated the council on insurance coverage for stained glass windows. The current insurance policy will be reviewed and updated upon renewal and the council will be updated on the policy.

Chuck proposed that the June Council meeting be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> on his patio beginning at 6:30 pm. Spouses are also invited to attend.

**Pastor's report:** 7th- and 8th-Grade Confirmation is going great. These are such good kids! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is pretty much done with their Confirmation requirements, and the 7th grade has most of this year's work done and a big head start on next year's requirements, too.

I am still interested in hearing what others think about continuing evening worship opportunities on Wednesday nights after confirmation ends (May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026).

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

First Communion Classes are done. 11 youth received their first Holy Communion with bread they made and from the chalices they painted. It was a beautiful service with their families and then the congregation came to kneel at the rail in fellowship and community with all believers.

We are hosting M and M this Sunday, April 26, at 6 at the parsonage. Brent is barbecuing ribs, and I am making my famous (infamous!) 3-layer lemon almond cake. March 29<sup>th</sup>, we hosted M and M with corned beef and cabbage. Though most folk enjoyed it, or at least pretended to, we did not have the turnout we usually do; I attribute this to the lack of Irish heritage in our largely Scandinavian community.

April 12-14, Brent and I attended and helped with the ELCA SD Spring Assembly in Yankton. It was the SE Conference Pastors' turn to host (every seven years). It was well attended, and the speakers were very interesting. The focus was on Intersectionality. I will be submitting expenses (halved with Brent's churches)

April 18<sup>th</sup> I will be going back to Yankton for WELCA

This past month (for us all) was filled with caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the mourning, life, death, and resurrection. (Easter!) Funerals, service, laughter, and tears.

Holy Humor Sunday is complete with memories of Deb and honor to our Lord and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Peace to you all as we join in the unending hymn of our life with Christ.

Text study in Vermillion: weekly on Tuesdays; Weekly Wednesday services at CCRC with Holy Communion once a month. Men's Bible Breakfast is studying the Book of Genesis. Adult Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 1:30 at the Parsonage. Grief Recovery Classes are held weekly on Thursday afternoons at the Parsonage. (We recently changed the time back to 4:00 PM.) Also on Thursday: 3rd Thursday, Dean's call, Support Ministry

### Reports:

Education – Senior Quilts will be presented on May 10.

Ministry Team – Noisy can offering raised \$938. A Thrivent grant was used for lunch following the Lenten Services.

Property – Cleanup is scheduled for May 2; alternate date in case of inclement weather is May 9.

Worship and Music – Committee met to select April music and will be meeting to select May and June service music.

### Old Business:

A list of cleaning projects will be put together for Spring Cleanup and will be passed around for those who want to help. It was suggested that a reminder text message be sent out before the cleanup.

Vonni reported on the four "Living Last Supper" presentations. Scandia had 240 attendees, and \$1,417 was raised for Banquet West. Parker had 190, Beresford 180, and Harrisburg 160 people. Since 2014, "Living Last Supper" performances, which are held every other year, have raised over \$20,000 for local charities.

Chuck reported that the current bid for the outside carpet is \$3,300. He would like to obtain more bids to determine if a better price can be found. Grout must be applied to the area to smooth the surface before installing the new carpet. In addition, the hand-rails need repairs.

Daniel updated the Council on the quote he had requested for informational purposes to expand the media system into the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen area. The bid he received was for \$16,800 and would include three TVs in the Fellowship Hall, a small unit in the kitchen area, and new speakers.

### **New Business:**

The office copier/printer 5-year lease expires in June 2026. Council was given information on the proposal to either renew the lease for the current machine or lease a new model. The Council raised some questions that need clarification. The final decision was postponed until the May meeting.

Pastor Elan submitted a bill for her expenses to attend the Spring Assembly, April 12-14.

The pastor asked the council's thoughts about having a Wednesday evening service when confirmation is done for the summer. Services would be a mix of fellowship, service, and be family-friendly. Pastor is also thinking about starting a Cancer Support Group and gathering more information about Stephen Ministries.

Shawn Johnson has agreed to help with maintaining the Facebook and Webpage for Scandia.

The summer worship schedule was discussed. Motion by Daniel to have summer worship begin at 9:30 am starting May 31 through Sept 6, 2026; Kory seconded; motion carried. Coffee following services was discussed. The ministry team will prepare sign-up sheets for volunteers to host coffee after services.

Daniel reported on recent internet issues, including crashes during Humor Sunday and a funeral. After consulting with a technician, Scandia will be added to the list for fiber optic installation at the church, as the line is nearby and it is a church, not a residence. Installation will be free, and the council agreed to proceed.

Joyce requested permission from the council to print WELCA bulletins for both the spring and fall meetings, since WELCA no longer covers the cost of copies. She would need around 25 copies for each meeting. The council approved her request, allowing her to use the copier to make the necessary copies.

Chuck shared recent thank-yous received by the Church.

Donation to the Centerville Fire Department was discussed. Motion by Joyce to donate \$100 to Fire Department, Daniel seconded; motion carried.

The next council meeting will be held on May 20, 2026, at 7:30 pm.

President Chuck Oster adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted Ruth Stevens, Secretary

### **Altar Guild**

Jeannie Meyer Hoagland  
**Communion Assistants**  
Vonni Knutson &  
Jeannie Meyer Hoagland

### **USHERS for May**

**3 Joe & Amanda Martz family**  
**10**  
**17 Allen & Kathy Skotvold**  
**24 Dan & Roxanne Evans**  
**31**

### **READERS for May**

**3 Jeannie Meyer Hoagland**  
**10 Chuck Oster**  
**17 Steve Leslie**  
**24 Roxanne Evans**  
**31 Philip Christofferson**



If you would be able to usher a Sunday in May please call Allen Skotvold (605-359-

### **ACOLYTE SCHEDULE for May**

**3 Walker Bendert & Bryer Martz**  
**10 Ellie Mark & Aubrey Hafner-Gerken**  
**17 Jace & Carter Muller**  
**24 Oakley Martz & Wesley Moore**  
**31 Miles Stevens & Drew Moore**



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 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!**

## Scandia Lutheran Church

251 Broadway St.

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Centerville, SD 57014-0147

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E-mail: [office@scandalialutheran.com](mailto:office@scandalialutheran.com)  
[www.scandalialutheran.com](http://www.scandalialutheran.com)

Pancakes 8:45am  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Worship 10:30am

Pastor  
Elan Ashby  
507-828-9514  
Office Administrator:  
Sherrie Knudson

## May BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### **May 2**

Brooklyn Hoelsing

### **May 3**

Ashley Gerken

### **May 4**

Jenni Van Hull

Lane Bendert

Carson Van Hull

### **May 7**

Kim Eide

### **May 8**

Rylie Tieman

### **May 10**

Philip Christofferson

Bailey Hansen

### **May 12**

Rachael Carstensen

Jackson Bertrand

Teigon Bertrand

### **May 13**

Todd Johnson

Aubrie Simonsen

Parker Simonsen

### **May 14**

Cody Carstensen

### **May 15**

Larry Erickson

Dwight Beeler

Gunner Pingrey

### **May 18**

Jean Peterson

### **May 19**

Shawn Johnson

### **May 20**

Lillie Eide

### **May 22**

Laura Bohlman

### **May 28**

Bridget Hansen

Ann Williamson

### **May 29**

Larry Overgaard

Brynn Hoelsing

### **May 30**

Weston Sikkink

### **May 31**

Laurie Skotvold

### **May 4**

Ron & Pattie Meyer

### **May 10**

Clint & JuLynn Perry

### **May 20**

Steve & Penny Schoepf

### **May 23**

Harlan & Carol Knutson

### **May 26**

Joe & Amanda Martz

### **May 28**

Loren & Robin Pickard

