

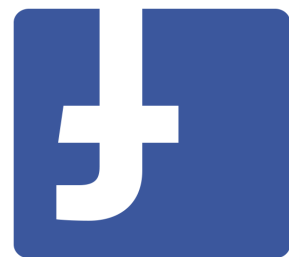


East Side Lutheran Church
 1300 East 10th Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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 Sioux Falls, SD

April 2026



8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sundays

5:30 pm

Saturdays

WORSHIP SERVICES



The Voice

Welcoming All
 Serving Others
 Growing in Faith

Volume 30 Issue 4

of East Side Lutheran Church

April 2026



Time for some spring cleaning!

Have you ever had fun “cleaning”? I have... once... o.k., maybe twice.

The first time took place while I was sorting out my old clothes, deciding what I was going to keep, and what I was going to either throw away or donate. It is amazing just how many clothes can pile up and fill our shelves and drawers over the course of a few years... and I don't even enjoy buying clothes for myself.

Anyway, I was using that method that was popular a few years ago where you take out each piece of clothing, one by one, hold it in your hands, give it a good look, and ask yourself, “Does this item give me joy?” If “yes”, I would keep it. If “no”, then I would get rid of it. You get the idea. The result is a kind of lightness and freedom.

April 5th is Easter. Jesus is raised from the dead, and we are called to New Life. These words matter. Easter proclaims that you are called new life in the world to come in eternity, yes, but also new life right now... in this world! The gospels invite us to reorder the way that we see others and the world. Jesus looks at all people with love and compassion... and this includes you. You are loved. Believing and accepting this love reveals itself in the way we live our lives.

We have been given a “clean chest of drawers” so to speak. This is a great time to hold up each item in our life and ask, “Does this help me experience, and reflect, God’s love in my life?” May the lightness and freedom of God’s love change your life.

Together in Faith,
Pastor Layne

P.S. The *second* time I had fun cleaning was really *every* time I vacuum with my ear buds in... with the music cranked up all the way letting myself be moved by the music. In this way I can literally dance through whatever chore is before me.



- April 2nd Maundy Thursday—7:00pm
worship with First Communion
(no meal)
- April 3rd Good Friday worships at Noon
and 7:00pm (no meals)
- April 4th Easter Vigil 5:30pm
- April 5th Easter worships at 8:00am and
10:00am (no Sunday School)



The Voice

This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

It can also be downloaded from our website.

East Side Lutheran Church

1300 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597 www.eastsidelc.org

Staff

Rev. Layne Nelson Lead Pastor

Rev. Ray Heidenson Visitation Pastor

Wayne Wosje Business Manager

Gayle Lee Parish Secretary

Sue Hart Volunteer Coordinator

Tom Call Security

Nona Bixler. Newsletter

Jackie Swiden....Sunday School Superintendent

Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith Organist

Dr. Thomas Krause Director of Music

Katrina Mitchell. Accompanist

Worship Services

Saturdays

5:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 am 10:00 am

Radio Broadcast: KXRB 1140 AM or 100.1 FM

Sundays, 11:00 am

OnLine: Facebook and YouTube

Sundays, 8:00 am

Radio Sponsorships

For 80 years we've received cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails from those who enjoy "being with you" in Sunday morning worship through our radio ministry.

"YOU make this possible! Your sponsorship allows this to happen AND can honor someone or something special in your life... anniversaries, birthdays, the memory of a loved one or simply gratitude of God's love.

11:00am on KXRB Radio

(1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

April 5—In memory of Adrian VanBochove given by Ann VanBochove

Sponsor a radio broadcast

\$255/Sunday!

Online Sponsorships

Each week there are over 500 individuals who click to view our 8:00 am service on our Facebook page at East Side Lutheran. Many of those individuals are members who are traveling and don't want to miss out on staying connected with the Good Word.

Thank you to those who have sponsored and to those considering a sponsorship.

Please consider sponsoring an online worship service to mark an important milestone in your life, and to help us spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

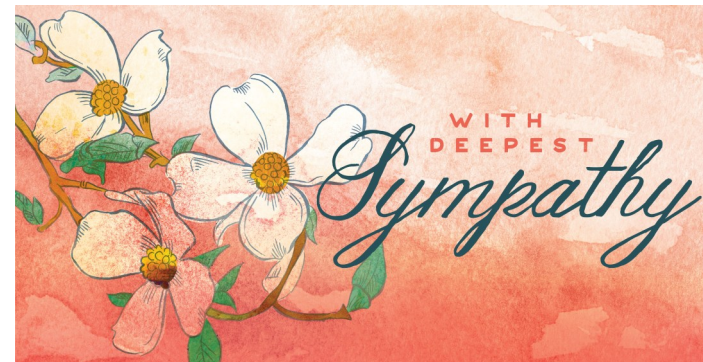


April 12—In Memory of Marty Trumbell Jr. given by Carol Trumbell

April 19—in honor of Sheri & John Shivily's

birthdays given by Shirley Watke

April 26—In honor of Layne & Jennifer Nelson's wedding anniversary given by Lloyd & Peggy Nelson



The following have been Honored this month to the glory of God through gifts given in their memory or honor to the work and ministry of East Side Lutheran.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Memory

Pat Olson given by

- Marv & Laurie McKnelly

Dana Oas given by

- Kim Gulbranson

- Nancy Kruse Oas

- Jerry Kerkhove

Rita Erickson given by

- Mark & Marianne Ossenfort

- Douglas & Christie Hainje

(Gifts received by March 24th)

WELCOME

New Members

East Side will be welcoming

New Members May 17

If you are interested in joining this community of faith, please contact our new member coordinator, Sue Hart: susanmhart1@yahoo.com for more information.

Invite your friends. Discover how might God be working through you in this place.

UPCOMING



April 9	Black Hills State University Choir Concert 7:30pm
April 11	WELCA Spring Luncheon
April 12	Peace Lutheran Brass during Sunday Church Services
April 18	Youth Lock In at East Side
May 3	High School Senior Recognition
May 10	Last Day of Sunday School
May 17	New Member Reception
June 17	Family Night—SF Canaries 6:35 pm
July 7	ESL Vacation Bible School 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Attention 6th—12th Graders

You are invited to a lock-in at the church April 18 at 8 pm—April 19 at 7:30 am. There will be games, pizza and snacks and loads of fun!

Sign up sheet by the office.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



The Buddy Dive

I've never been scuba diving. I've snorkeled a couple of times...didn't care for it. Something about being in the ocean, away from shore, looking down and trying to breath through a tube while my face is smushed into a mask, not my gig. I do have a close friend who scuba dives and LOVES it. He calls it bubble therapy.

So, because he likes scuba diving and he's a close friend, I learned A LOT about scuba diving.

It's recommended, if not non-negotiable, that you dive with another diver no matter how experienced you are, especially in open water. The thought behind having a buddy is to have someone to look out for you while underwater. Some of the benefits of having or being a buddy is safety, communication, increased awareness of your surroundings, learning opportunities and shared experiences. In short, it's having someone you can trust and turn to if things don't go as planned.

It's interesting how scuba diving and our everyday lives mirror each other. Even though we believe in our heart of hearts that we know what we're doing, things can go wrong and without someone watching out for you, it can be dangerous. We need to have someone to help guide us, to communicate with and to have shared experiences with. Without that person it's risky to say the least. You can rely on your life experiences to get you through it, or maybe friends and family but, they have the same limitations as you. They can only do so much.

You and I were born into the buddy system, so to speak. We have someone to guide us, care for us, teach us and share the ups and downs with. Unlike a scuba buddy, our protector never leaves once the dive is through. God stays with us forever. Sometimes, hard headed people like me, try to go solo diving because we think we have it all figured out and it'll be alright. Even when you decide to go it alone, God is still with you. He won't let you do it by yourself. You may not acknowledge it but, trust me He's there...watching, guiding, teaching and loving. Part of my nightly prayers is to thank Him for loving me, even though I've given him every reason not to.

A NOTE FROM NONA

Volunteering at East Side Lutheran is one of the many places that I give my time to. I also knit prayer shawls for Sanford USD Medical Center and have for over 10 years. The chaplains at the hospital give the prayer shawls out to those they feel a little extra comfort.

Last week as I was volunteering at the church office a gentleman presented at the door. (This happens many times as individuals are in need of something to eat, a prayer or just a place to warm up.) It was a cold morning and the gentleman had no coat and was wrapped in a black and white prayer shawl. While Pastor Layne retrieved a jacket for him I visited with him and asked if he received his shawl from the hospital. He explained he had just been discharged and indeed had gotten the shawl from a chaplain. I smiled and told him that I had knitted a black and white shawl just like the one he had received. As he prepared to leave I helped him put on the coat and wrapped the prayer shawl around him as a scarf to keep him warm. That day I realized that the hours I spend knitting truly makes a difference in bringing comfort and warmth to those in need. This was truly a God moment for me.

Send a Student to Camp. Shape a Future.

There's something unforgettable about church camp. It's more than lake days, team competitions, and late-night cabin laughs. Church camp is where faith becomes personal. It's where students step away from daily pressures and step closer to God. It's where friendships deepen, confidence grows, and lives are changed. In a world filled with distractions, noise, and constant comparison, our youth need intentional space to unplug and reconnect — with God, with others, and with who they were created to be.

Why Camp Matters

At church camp, students:

- Experience powerful worship and biblical teaching
- Build strong, Christ-centered friendships
- Grow in confidence and leadership
- Discover their identity and purpose in Christ
- Make life-changing spiritual decisions



Many students make some of their most important faith commitments during camp. With distractions removed and hearts open, God moves in incredible ways.

Your Sponsorship Makes It Possible

For some families, the cost of camp can be a challenge. That's where our church family steps in.,

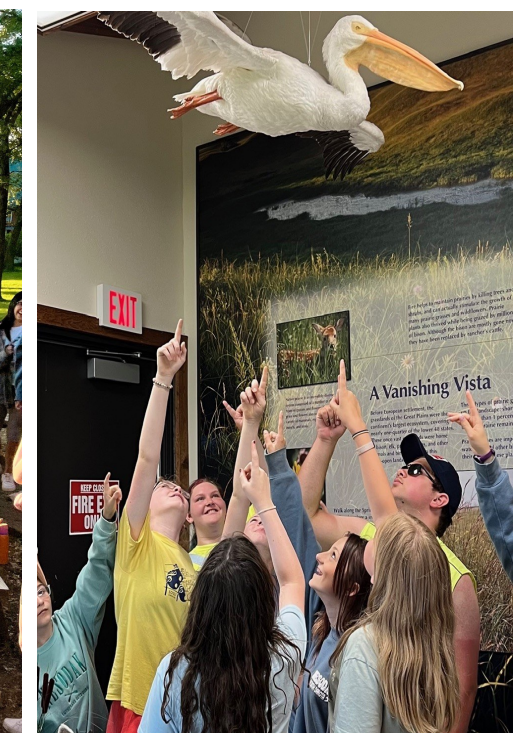
When you sponsor a student, you are:

- Removing financial barriers
- Investing in spiritual growth
- Encouraging the next generation
- Planting seeds that will last a lifetime

You may never fully see the impact of your gift — but heaven will. Together, we can ensure that every student who wants to attend camp has the opportunity to go.

Let's invest in the future of our youth — and the future of the Church.

If you would like to contribute toward camp scholarships, please contact the church office; or a council member.



COUNCIL MINUTES — KIM TRAVERS

Church Council Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2026

Present: Ray Schut, Brian Ensberg, Gwen Oakland, Brenda Schut, Todd Brower, Kimberly Travers, and Pastor Layne Nelson. Excused Absences: Danielle Champa, Janelle Songstad, Carla Midden
Guest: Jon Salberg, Notary

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:15am. Brian Ensberg moved to accept the agenda without changes. Todd Brower seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Layne Nelson opened the meeting in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Todd Brower moved to accept the February 15, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Schut said that there are documents to be signed by the elected and present Council Members regarding the perpetual easement for American Tower. Treasurer Ensberg said Greg Starnes has prepared the documents and Jon Salberg will notarize at today's council meeting. Treasurer Ensberg also stated American Tower stands firm in the 10 year clause to remove their equipment if they give up the easement. Treasurer Ensberg made a motion to give President Ray Schut signing authority on behalf of East Side Lutheran Church for the sale of a perpetual easement to American Tower. Seconded by Todd Brower. Motion carried. Pastor Layne thanked Greg Starnes for his pro bono work on this project.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Layne Nelson reported there will be four baptisms in the next two months. Three funerals have occurred in the past month. Eight weddings are scheduled for this summer and fall. 5th graders will receive their 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday, and Peace Lutheran Brass will be at ESLC the Sunday after Easter. Mark your calendars! Pastor Layne's sabbatical dates are set for April 9 – 30, 2026 and July 15 - August 18, 2026. Worship leaders have been secured for all weekends.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported the Year-to-date Net position through February is \$15,711 and Year to date if \$13,360 better than budget. Cash flow is in good shape. Gwen Oakland moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Todd Brower seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Stewardship Task Force – The Stewardship Taskforce met on February 12, 2026 with the GSB consultant over zoom. The current contract ends on March 31, 2026. Pastor Layne said there are various options for continuing the partnership that will be vetted and then presented to Church Council in the next couple of months. President Schut noted the GSB consultants have done a good job for ESLC to date.

Education – Gwen Oakland reported the visit to Sky Zone in March 2026 was a hit with 16 jumpers and everyone had a good time! Individually wrapped candy is needed for the Eggstravaganza, which will occur Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 10am. The Youth lock-in is set for Saturday, April 18, 2026 from 8pm-7:30am. The last night of confirmation is Wednesday, April 29, 2026, and there will be games and smores. Senior recognition will be Sunday, May 3, 2026 at the 10am service. Shout out to the Fellowship Committee for providing breakfast before the service! Frisbee golf at Tuthill is planned for Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2pm.

Outreach – Food to You was hosted by ESLC in March 2026.

Evangelism – Brenda Schut said that a table is set up in Narthex for Summer Camp 2026 Sponsorship. President Schut will talk about this opportunity at an upcoming Council update to the congregation. Brenda will soon begin working with the SF Canaries Baseball on Family Night scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026. The Cribbage Tournament is rescheduled from March 2026 to Fall 2026 to allow for planning, communication, and sign up.

TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



At the March 15th Council meeting, the final cell tower agreement was signed and notarized. All documents have been submitted to American Tower, and we are now awaiting final approval and payment. Proceeds will support the Endowment Fund and reduce the mortgage principal. Thank you to Jon Salberg for serving as notary and Greg Starnes for providing legal counsel.

We are truly a generous congregation! Through February, total offerings are up 10.5% over last year. Thank you for your faithful generosity, which makes it possible for our church to continue its mission and ministry. Budget highlights through February are:

- Year-to-date net position is a **deficit** (\$15,711).
- \$13,460 **better** than budget
- \$15,259 **better** than last year
- Total revenue up 7% over last year
- Year-to-date property expense \$11,525 **less** than last year (no boiler expense, no snow to clear)
- Cash flow is in good shape.
- Capital Savings Money Market balance: \$36,331
- Endowment balance: \$873,327
- Mortgage balance: \$604,677

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



March has flown by with a lot happening throughout our program. Gwen Oakland gave a presentation on the different church camps that will be held during summer break. Palm Sunday brought the time our children waved their palm branches and sang under the direction of Dr Tom Krause. The 5th Graders have been preparing all year for their first communion that will happen during the evening service on Maundy Thursday. They made unleavened bread on Palm Sunday to be used for their first communion.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday - 5th grade first communion.

April 5th - No Sunday School - Easter Sunday

May 3rd - Milestone projects displayed in Narthex.

May 10th - Last day of Sunday School.

July 7th - ESL Vacation Bible School - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.



Youth serving supper during Lent

WELCA HAPPENINGS—SHIRLEY SUNDEM & BARBARA ANDERSON

All Women who are member of East Side Lutheran are also a member of WELCA

We look forward to seeing you as we gather and celebrate women's faith and leadership

Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 am WELCA Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 1:00 pm WELCA Bible Study & Fellowship

Saturday, April 11, Noon -- East Side Lutheran Spring Luncheon

A sign-up sheet by the office. Please sign up to bring a salad. Thank You.

Sat., April 25th, 8:30 - 2:30 Spring Crossroads Conference Gathering, Beaver Valley Church

Honor Your Mother (Feed your Father)

After 23 years of use, we are replacing the flooring and painting the walls in the church kitchen. Just think of all the souls who have been fed through that room... and the kind people who faithfully, patiently and regularly prepare meals.

We are still looking for a few dollars to complete this project, and keep the meals coming. If you would like to contribute financially to this project, please contact the church office. This is a great way to honor someone for Mother's Day. Any excess funds will be directed to replace kitchen counter tops. Thank you for considering this project.



EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



Walking by Faith When No One Is Watching

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” — 2 Corinthians 5:7

In our daily lives, there are many moments when we have a choice to make. Sometimes the choice is easy when others are watching. But the true test of our character—and our faith—often comes in the quiet moments when no one else sees.

As followers of Christ, we are called to walk by faith. That means trusting God's ways even when the outcome isn't visible and doing what is right even when recognition or praise may never come. Our actions behind the scenes matter just as much as those in the spotlight.

People notice integrity. A kind word, an honest decision, or a faithful action done quietly can speak louder than a sermon. When we choose to do the right thing simply because it honors God, we become living examples of Christ to those around us.

Evangelism is not always about standing in front of a crowd or having all the right words. Often, it is about the way we live each day. When others see a life guided by faith rather than convenience, they begin to see something different—something real.

So whether at work, at home, or in the community, let us continue to walk by faith. Even when no one is watching, God sees. And through our faithfulness, others may come to see Him as well.

Volunteer Spotlight—Carol Riswold



It's only fitting that when Carol Riswold was asked to volunteer in the church library that she did not hesitate to say "yes". After all she spent most of her career working in libraries. First an elementary school, then a college library and ended her 38 year career at Lincoln High School right here in Sioux Falls.

Carol grew up on a farm outside of Dell Rapids. She remembers attending church services at East Side Lutheran with her grandparents Carl & Carrie Wohler. In 1967 her and her husband Don married and moved to Sioux Falls. Becoming members of East Side Lutheran was a natural fit for both of them. Carol and Don have one son Jim who lives outside of Dell Rapids and a daughter Caryn who is a professor at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. They were also blessed with four grandsons and one great granddaughter.

Carol remembers when the library consisted of one shelf in the basement of the church. When it came to add the addition to the church, Patty Johnson who was passionate about reading and the library advocated for a real library space. When she needed to retire she asked Carol Riswold and Karel Amend if they would take over tending to the library. They both agreed, that was over 15 years ago. During that time the two of them moved the book inventory from an index card system to everything cataloged in the computer system. They entered each and every book into inventory to make it easy and quick to track. The library houses thousands of books of all kinds. These books have been donated and collected over the years. A children's section has also been added along with a magazine section. All are available to be checked out.

Fun fact: The library is also used as the Grooms dressing room, many meetings take place in the library and assembly of this very newsletter takes place in the library.

Another fun fact: The shelves in the library were made by John Dammer who is the late husband of Kay Dammer. John built them and Patty Johnson stained them and lovingly organized and placed the books on the shelves.

Volunteering in the library is just one of the many volunteer positions that Carol has had at East Side Lutheran. She taught Sunday School, was a member of the Altar Guild, secretary for WELCA, served on the church council, stuffed many of bulletins and newsletters, served communion and has been a lector. That's a lot of hats. When I asked Carol why she gives of her time and talents she didn't even have to think about it. She said "It's just how I was brought up and it's what you do. It's in my DNA". Carol also stated that it is a great way to get to know your church family members better. Carol's husband Don has also been involved serving on the building committee, was treasurer for the church and also served as an usher. I guess you can say it's a family affair.

If you haven't visited the library take a minute to stop by and say "hello" and maybe even check out a book or two. Library is located near the east doors and is open from 9:00 am to 10:00 am each Sunday.

