



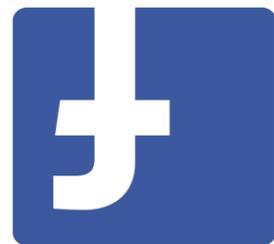
East Side Lutheran Church
 1300 East 10th Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
 www.eastsidelc.org

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March 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 3

of East Side Lutheran Church

March 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

People are watching us! Not to frighten you; but to alert you. Here are two examples.

Example #1. Many of you know that I recently had the opportunity to spend two weeks traveling with my son through England, Scotland, Ireland and Norway. It was great. It was a wonder-filled trip (just ask the St Arbucks folks, they had to sit through my slide show :-). Well, in each of those countries, when people realized we were from the U.S. (and that we were cordial and safe to talk to), they wanted to talk to us about what was happening in the states. It was clear in all our conversations with the locals of these countries, that they were paying attention. They were watching. AND... it was clear to us that the actions of us in the states has an impact on the people of all those countries in their day to day lives. Our impact, for both better and worse, *was eye opening.*

Example #2. On February 18 we celebrated Ash Wednesday. Those who went to church received a cross traced on their foreheads with ashes. After the noon worship service I had the opportunity to be interacting with people in our community... from a funeral to the grocery store to other business. In each of those interactions, when people saw the ashen cross on my forehead, they looked at me differently. For those with a church background, I was greeted with a welcoming smile. For those without, or those who have had a bad encounter with Christianity, it was clear they were simply putting up with me. In both circumstances, simply my presence was making an impact. *It was eye opening.*

A Challenge. This Lent we remember that we are Christians (literally - Christ People). This is to be reflected in how we treat people, how we speak to people, and in the decisions that we make at home and in community. We are to embody the words and actions of Jesus.

This Lent, what if we intentionally went out of our way to interact with people (all people) as if we were acting directly on behalf of Jesus?? What if we were to wear a name badge that read: "**Hi. My name is ____, and I am a representative of Jesus.**" I bet for all of us, *it would be eye opening!* Remember we are in this... together in faith.



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)

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.



Online Sponsorship—only \$50/Sunday!



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

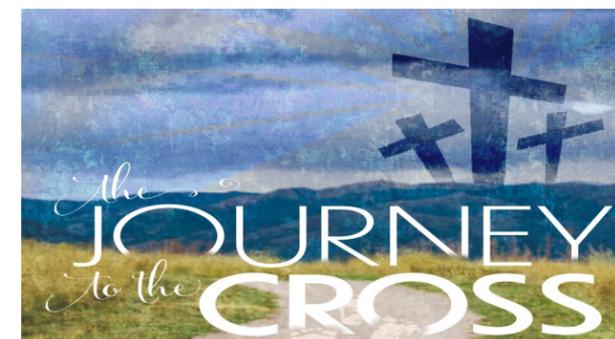
Virgil VanBatavia given by

- Kay Dammer

Rita Erickson given by

- Mark & Mari Ossenfort

(Gifts received by February 24th)



LENT Brings Us Together

There is so much going on at church this time of year. And the beauty is, that *it brings us together*. **THANK YOU for your participation** in the life of your church. You rock!

Join us for **Lenten Services:**

*12:00 pm followed by assorted soups for lunch (thank you Nancy and Evie)

*7:00 pm preceded by dinner at 6:00 pm (various groups provide the meals)

March 4—Supper provided by Church Council

March 11—Supper provided by WELCA

March 18— Supper provided by the Music groups

March 25—Supper provided by the Youth Group

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- 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

Upcoming Events

- March 1 Skyzone 2-4pm
- March 15 Cribbage Tournament 1-3pm
- March 28 Eggstravaganza 10:00am
- April 11 WELCA Spring Luncheon
- April 12 Peace Lutheran Brass during
Sunday Church Services
- May 3 High School Senior
Recognition

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS — CARLA MIDDLEN



BINGO was a HUGE success. Over 150 people came and filled the room ready to play and take a chance on winning. It was a blessing to have so many of you together not only enjoying BINGO but also the fellowship with one another.
God is GOOD!



Thank you to everyone who donated prizes we had many choices that including gift cards which are always a HIT! Because of your support everyone was able to go home with a prize.



A special thank you to Nancy Renner, our caller, Kay Dammer, who did special drawings, and the members of the Fellowship Committee who set up for BINGO, handed out cards, sorted and set up all the prizes and cleaned up after the event. This fun event could not be possible without everyone's involvement.



Commemorate a Loved One – Donate to the Altar Guild

Your Altar Guild members decorated the sanctuary for the Easter season. If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a family member, friend, or other meaningful person in your life you can do so by donating \$10 to the Altar Guild. The names in which you wish to honor will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

Forms are available in the Church office or complete the form below and bring it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Due date is Palm Sunday, March 29th.



Please print clearly so we have names spelled correctly. Thank you.

Donated by:

Contact number:

In Memory of:

In honor of:

Please return the completed form to the church office by Sunday, March 29th, with payment.

Proceeds go to your **Altar Guild Ministry** to enhance our worship experience.

Thank you!

COUNCIL MINUTES — KIM TRAVERS

East Side Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2026

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

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:25am. Carla Midden moved to accept the agenda without changes. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Layne Nelson passed out Luther’s Small Catechism booklets to the Council. He discussed the history of the booklet and how Martin Luther wanted to bring understanding of the core principals of Christianity to all people. The Morning Prayer was read and discussed.

Secretary’s Report: Gwen Oakland moved to accept the January 18, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

Introductions / Welcome Janelle: President Schut said Janelle Songstad was unable to attend today’s meeting and will be formally welcomed to Church Council at a later date.

Appoint Carla Midden Vice President: President Schut welcomed Carla Midden to the Council in her new role as Vice President, replacing Jon Cisar.

President’s Report: President Schut noted the annual meeting was well attended and went smoothly. He felt the Informational Meeting held on January 31, 2026 was helpful for the Congregation regarding the cell tower decision. Todd Brower suggested that people be asked to wait until the microphone is given to make motions or have discussion. Carla Midden also suggested that it be announced for people to stand up and state their name during motions or discussion.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Layne Nelson highlighted from his written report one baptism and one funeral since last Council meeting. The paperwork has been signed to make the Boy Scouts troop into a Family Troop. The Church Council will serve Lenten Supper on March 4, 2026.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported January 2026 numbers show \$8,713 better than budget and \$3,315 better than 2024. \$9,362 has been returned to the capital account for necessary projects in the name of St. Arbuck’s. Gwen Oakland moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Education – Gwen Oakland reported there are numerous activities ahead for the youth of the congregation.

Outreach – Danielle Champa reported ESLC will sponsor and host Food to you in March 2026. Volunteers are needed and the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the church office.

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported that 40 people have purchased tickets for Faith and Family at the Stampede hockey game. She also reported that many comments have been received on the East Side Lutheran Church Facebook page for February 2026.

Fellowship – Carla Midden reported Bingo is scheduled for February 22, 2026 from 2-4pm. Many prizes have already been dropped off at the church office.

Property – Todd Brower reported that two ovens have been installed in the kitchen. He discussed a request regarding replacing the flooring in the kitchen and will get quotes.

Other Business –

Lenten Supper– The Church Council will prepare and serve Lenten supper on March 4, 2026.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm. The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2026, at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Travers, Secretary

TREASURER’S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Our East Side Lutheran congregation approved the 2026 budget at the February 8th Annual Meeting. The budget projects a 7.1% increase in contributions, for total revenue of \$800,112. Expenses include a new part-time, program-focused position, with all other costs in line with historical spending.

January is off to a strong start. We are \$8,713 better than the budget and \$3,315 better than last year. The full January 31st budget report is posted on the church bulletin board. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



February has been a busy month in our Sunday School program. The children have been working on milestone projects along with enjoying their time with their Teachers. Wednesday, February 25th saw our Sunday School families and Teachers serve the Lenten supper. It was a great time of fellowship serving chili dogs, chips, dessert and refreshments to our congregation.

The Education Task Force meets on the first Sunday of each month throughout the year.

We are currently working on the Annual Eggstravaganza which will be held on Saturday, March 28th. Donations of wrapped candy for the egg hunt is always appreciated and can be dropped off in the church office during normal business hours during the week and on Sunday’s.

Something new is in the works with a one evening Vacation school for families, look for food, fun and fellowship. We will be needing a few volunteers to help with VBS on Tuesday, July 7th from 6:00 PM - 8:00PM.

Save The Dates

March 28th - The Annual Eggstravaganza -10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

March 29th - Palm Sunday, Children sing in church- 10:00 AM service.

March 29th - 5th grade class will making unleavened bread which will be used during their first communion. They will also meet with Pastor Layne to rehearse and to learn more about what will transpire during their first communion.

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.

Wishing everyone a blessed March!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 11:15 Education Task Force 2-4 pm	2 9:00 am Quilters	3 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	4 12:00 pm Lenten Worship and lunch 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7 pm Lenton Worship 7:45 pm Adult Choir	5 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Food to You Distribution	6	7 5:30 pm Worship
8 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 11:15 Healing Service <i>Daylight Savings</i>	9 9:00 am Quilters	10 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	11 12:00 pm Lenten Worship and lunch 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7 pm Lenton Worship 7:45 pm Adult Choir	12 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	13	14 9:30 am Altar Guild 5:30 pm Worship
15 8:00&10:00 Worship 11:15 Council Meeting 1-3pm Cribbage Tourn	16 Newsletter Items Due	17 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18 12:00 pm Lenten Worship and lunch 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7 pm Lenton Worship 7:45 pm Adult Choir	19 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	20 <i>Spring Begins</i>	21 5:30 pm Worship
22 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	23	24 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	25 12:00 pm Lenten Worship and lunch 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7 pm Lenton Worship 7:45 pm Adult Choir	26 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	27	28 10:00 am Eggstravaganza 5:30 pm Worship
29 8:00 & 10:00 Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 9:00 am Quilters	31 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn				

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



Dr. Bob

Make a decision to turn your will and your life over to the care of God. That's Dr. Bob's recommendation. Have you done it? Will you do it? Why or why not? I certainly didn't do it when I was young because I knew everything and every success I experienced was because of my enormous talent, superior intellect and sparkling personality. I was kinda full of myself to say the least. In true fashion, life has a way of humbling a person and I was out of options. That's when I realized that everything I have, I owe to God.

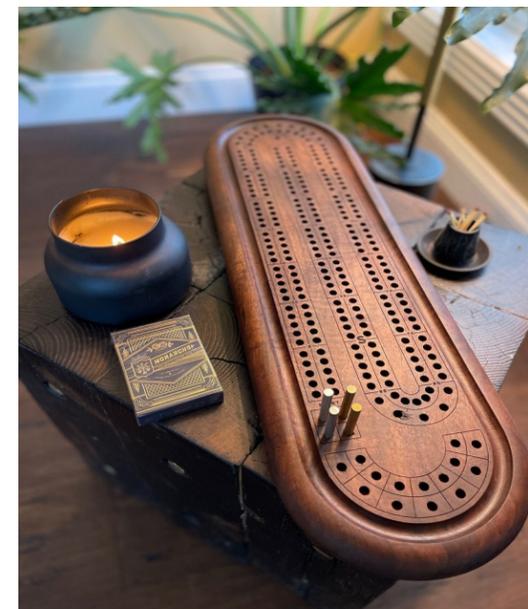
I didn't grow up in an environment where trust in others was normal. I always held my cards close to the vest until I understood what was in it for the other person and I could gain the upper hand. I didn't trust other people, let alone someone that I couldn't see. I became self reliant and hard headed. It's a tough way of life, but that was the one I chose and for quite a while it seemed to be working just fine. Until it didn't any longer.

When my back was against the wall and all of my options were bad ones, I surrendered. Keep the cheese just let me out of the trap. I can't do it by myself...I need help. I need to **trust** someone more powerful than me. That person was God. I didn't grow up in the church so I didn't know much about Him but, I knew that my friends talked to him daily and their lives were a lot less chaotic than mine. So, I asked for help. I turned my will and my life over to Him.

It's not easy for a person who hadn't relied on others for anything in life before but, I did it. Best decision I've ever made. Life was calmer, less panic and anxiety, more peaceful feelings and restful sleep. Better relationships, more empathy and less selfishness and feeling alone. I finally felt like an insider rather than an outsider.

My life isn't perfect and I'm still prone to slipping back into my old habits and way of thinking but, it's so much better than I had ever dreamed it would be. So...what about you? Will you turn your will and your life over to the care of God? Dr. Bob and I recommend it.

Wanna peg?



East Side Lutheran is hosting a Cribbage Tournament on March 15th from 1-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Whether you are a seasoned pro or just learning join us for a fun afternoon. Invite your friends and family to join in the fun as well.

Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Games will be single elimination with the top winner taking home a custom design cribbage board.

Note: We are looking for extra cribbage boards so if you are willing to allow us to use yours drop it off at the church office.

WELCA HAPPENINGS—SHIRLEY SUNDEM

WELCA—Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who's mission is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ, focusing on community, service and advocacy. East Side Lutheran has an active WELCA group and invite all women to come, grow in faith, promote healing and support one another in our faith. Below you will find dates and activities for the month of March and April.

Wed., March 11—NO WELCA BIBLE STUDY

Wed., March 11, 5:30 pm: WELCA serves Lenten Supper

Thank You to those who have volunteered to work or provide bars or cookies

Sat., April 11, Noon -- ESL Spring Luncheon

There will be 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

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

Blessings to you all during this Lenten and Easter season.



EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



I've been thinking about what truly makes a church thrive. It's not the building itself, no matter how beautiful. It's not just the programs or the schedule.

The lifeblood of a church is its people and the way they choose to be involved. Each person here brings something unique. A smile at the door. A willingness to help. A voice lifted in song. A quiet prayer. A helping hand when someone is in need. All of these moments big and small are what give our church its heartbeat.

When we participate, when we show up, when we share our time and our gifts, we create something far greater than any one of us could alone. We build connection. We build encouragement. We build a place where people feel seen, welcomed, and loved.

Church isn't meant to be something we simply attend. It's something we belong to. And belonging grows through involvement — through stepping in, reaching out, and walking alongside one another.

Every act of service matters. Every effort counts. And every person here plays a part in keeping our church vibrant and strong.

Your church council Thanks you for the ways you already serve and participate. Your presence makes a difference — more than you may ever know.

East Side is alive!

Portrait of a Spiritual Quest—Roger & Nita Lien



AUTHOR'S NOTE: This brief profile of members of the East Side Lutheran Church family is presented here because they are in the pews and you have noticed them. In fact, you are often aware when they are in church and when they are not because their presence shapes your sense of belonging in this faith community. This story may offer an insight, a bit of inspiration or answer a question you've wanted to ask.

A person can often spot Roger Lien at the 8 a.m. Sunday service wearing the green. He's not Irish. He is a Packer's fan and wears the team jersey to church in season. His spouse, Nita, may be a fan too but doesn't need to advertise it quite as much. It only took three years in Madison, WI for the young couple to become part of the Packers' fan base before returning to what was to become Viking territory. "Back then the team could do everything" Roger said. "They always won."

Roger and Nita have lived in Sioux Falls most of their lives. Both attended Washington High School when it was the only public high school in Sioux Falls. They met as teenagers. Nita worked at Ray's Drive-in and Roger, who had already graduated from high school and had a job, would show up at the drive in a '57 Pontiac Chieftain. "It ran real good," Roger said. Nita remembers meeting him as a regular customer and "a really nice guy ...and a good tipper."

Though they were not married at East Side they joined shortly after their wedding. They exchanged vows at another church that was good at restrictions but not very good at permissions. So the young couple decided to move on. They looked at other places in the area but decided to join East Side. It has been a good match. "That would be sixty-two and a half years ago," Roger calculated.

The ESL building was relatively new when the couple joined. Both have aged well. The building has provided close relationships for them and their family.

The couple's daughter Lori and sons Kirk and Gary grew up at East Side Lutheran church with their parents. They received first communion and were confirmed here.

Both Nita and Roger have been involved in the congregation along with their children. Roger and Nita have served on boards, church councils, call committees and done all those other projects that need extra hands to get the job done.

Though Roger is retired, cars continue to be a part of his life. After leaving Billion Toyota as service manager he still gets to work with cars occasionally. Once in a while he is asked to deliver cars to new owners. "I get to drive cars to places all over the country," he said.

Nita stays home and welcomes those who come by for a visit. "I'm a people person," Nita said. Generations of neighbor kids know that and come back to visit.