

# *Good News Journal March 2026*

## *St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring NALC*

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

#### **Journeying Through Lent: Preparing, Trusting, and Remaining Faithful**

As we walk through the sacred season of Lent, our hearts have been guided by reflection, prayer, and a deeper understanding of God's call in our lives. This year, at the Wednesday, Lent Devotionals, so far we've focused on three important themes that have shaped our journey: Preparing for Lent, Faithfulness, and Trust in the Midst of Doubt.

#### **Preparing for Lent: A Time to Ready Our Hearts**

Lent is a season of preparation — a time to clear away distractions and make room for God to do a deeper work in us. As we began this journey, we were reminded that just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing for His ministry, we too are called to set aside time to prepare our hearts. Through prayer, fasting, and reflection, we have sought to draw closer to God and open ourselves to His transforming grace.

#### **Faithfulness: Walking Steadfastly with God**

In our exploration of faithfulness, we've been reminded that God calls us to remain steady and committed, even when the road is difficult. Just as Christ remained faithful to His mission, we are called to stay true to our faith in both joyful and challenging seasons. Faithfulness is not about perfection but about staying connected to God through prayer, worship, and service — trusting that He is always at work in our lives.

#### **Doubt and Trust: Holding On in Uncertainty**

Lent also invites us to wrestle with doubt and trust. Just as many of the disciples struggled to understand God's plan, we, too, face moments of uncertainty in our own journeys. But in those moments, we are reminded that trust is not the absence of doubt — it's choosing to hold on to God even when the path is unclear. Our faith grows stronger when we bring our doubts to Him and allow His peace to meet us in the unknown.

As we draw nearer to Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us continue to lean into these truths. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5) May this season deepen our faith, strengthen our commitment, and renew our trust in God's promises.

**Blessings to you all as we continue this sacred journey together.**

**In Christ's service,**

***Robin Haugen***

**Council President, St. John Lutheran Church**

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

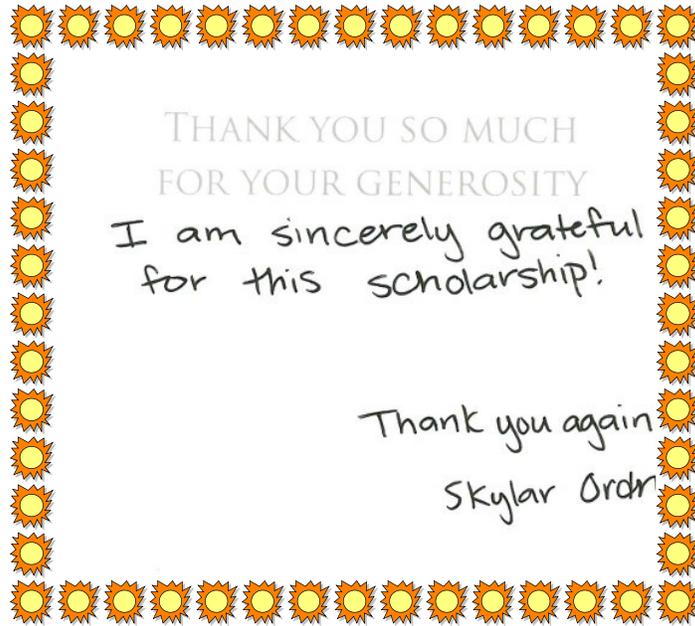
# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2 Angela Wendt  
Valasquez
- 2 Ralph Grinde
- 3 Jake Tatman
- 5 Randall Tipp
- 6 Doug Neva
- 13 Ashley Hewson
- 13 Herbert  
Kollatschny
- 14 Paislee Schmidt
- 16 Carol Kudlacek
- 17 Faith Haugen'
- 18 Milton Dittert
- 23 Ryan Reibenstein
- 29 Amanda Blezinger
- 29 Hayden Herzog
- 30 Cameron Dittert
- 31 Courtney Rabius

- 15 Randy and Denise  
Lange
- 19 James and Jheri Sell
- 30 T.J. and Brenda Menke
- 31 Kenneth and Charisse  
Blezinger

## Prevailing Prayers

- James and Carol Wenzel
- Ronnie and Bonnie Smith
- Deana Keller
- Carolyn Rash
- Mike Rankin
- Carol Smith
- Nic Norboge
- Emily Drymala
- Kendall Manna
- Alfred Tomasek
- Tristan
- Zachary Schulke
- Kathy Painchaud
- Sara Wit
- MaryAnn English
- Victor Smith
- Charlotte Reichert
- Hope Griffin
- Brian Dahl
- Bubba Bencal
- Carol Smith
- Jerry Walsch
- Zayden
- Doris Schaffner
- Chelsy Lankford
- Debbie Driskoll
- Melinda Brock
- James and Shirley Hering
- Billy Findeisen
- Brian Findeisen
- Pastor Cody Mills
- Baby Hudson T.
- Brianna Pesl
- Don Allphin
- Prayers for the family of  
Sherry Lytle, in their time of  
sorrow. Sherry is Cody's aunt



### MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

- Colonial Bell– Sealy**  
Katherine Ludwig
- Argent Court –Brenham**  
Carrie Froebel
- Columbus Oaks**  
Marilyn Wendt
- HOMEBOUND:**  
Katherine Washburn

### Feb 2026 Worship Attendance

Date	In House
2-1	50
2-8	57
2-18 Ash Wed	30
2-15	55
2-22	48
2-29	



## Senior Service

Saddle on up and make your way over on **March 18th** for

Senior Serve ! Starts at 11:00 am

We'll be celebrating the **2026 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo !**

We rustled up some Beef Enchiladas to go with some of the best sides  
and the best desserts this side of Mill Creek !!!

Music, jokes , Bingo, **The Hostesses with the Mostesses!!!**

**Who could ask for anything more !**



St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring

Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026 - Amended

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Robin Haugen at 5:08 PM.

Opening Devotional: An opening devotional was given by Don Allphin.

Members Present: Robin Haugen, Ken Wienken, Tim Brune, Laurie Eckhardt,

Members Absent: Malcolm Dittert, Doug Neva

Guests – Don Allphin, Jennifer Logan representing the call committee

Adoption of Agenda – Approved as written

Minutes for final approval – January minutes approved by email. Final approval motion made by Laurie Eckardt, seconded by Robin Haugen. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Laurie Eckardt presented the treasurer's report. Robin Haugen made a motion to accept and Tim Brune seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer Logan reported that the call committee was basically finished with the call profile. The only remaining information was the proposed salary and benefits. They needed some direction from the NALC regarding a range of compensation.

After some discussion regarding the budget, a decision was made to hold a brief budget meeting immediately after the report meeting on March 1st to add in an estimated salary and compensation package for a prospective pastor.

Laurie reported that the audit committee met last Sunday to review the past year's finances. The committee was comprised of Cheryl Mellenthin, Jennifer Logan and Sharron Brandes. No issues were found.

Council discussed how to expense the thank you cards purchased for the two pastors that guided our call process workshop, Jared Stillions and Evan McClanahan. We decided that another line item needed to be added to the budget for such miscellaneous items. For now, we decided to charge toward office supplies.

Pastor Report – Don Alphin commented on how he has been working with the supply pastor, Cody Mills to conduct the service. Since Cody broke his foot and had surgery on it he is unable to even dress or walk normally. **See Page 2**

Camera System for Church Services – Some discussion was held regarding a better camera system for the live stream of our service. Ken reported that some cameras are available with external microphones for well under \$1000. We will need some assistance to integrate it into our system. Timm Brune made a motion to authorize Ken to investigate and purchase a camera and get it installed at a maximum cost of \$1,500. Robin seconded. Motion carried.

Closed Executive Session – Completed

February Council Assignments:

- March 1: All council members
- March 8: Tim / Ken
- March 15: Robin / Laurie
- March 22: Tim / Doug
- March 29: Ken / Malcolm

Calendar Approval: Approved as presented.

Future Agenda Items: None

Meeting adjournment: With no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer at 7:04.

Respectfully;

Ken Wienken

Council Secretary



**PARTYING  
NEVER  
GETS  
OLD.**  
EVEN IF  
YOU'RE 70.

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**CHERYL'S BIRTHDAY BASH**  
Saturday, April 25th. 5pm Til Late  
CAT SPRING AG HALL  
13035 HALL ROAD, CAT SPRING, TX 78933  
RSVP TO 979-398-0205 TEXT OR CALL BY APRIL 20TH  
**MEXICAN BUFFET, DRINKS AND LIVE MUSIC**  
**DRESS CASUAL! NO GIFTS PLEASE!**

Bring  
The  
Kids !!





## St. John Annual Congregational Report Meeting

March 1, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring

Congregational Report Meeting

March 1, 2026

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Robin Haugen at 11:08 AM.

The minutes of the October 26, 2025 congregational meeting were read by Robin Haugen. A motion was made by Mary O'Neal and seconded by Laurie Eckardt. Motion carried.

The various financial reports were presented to the congregation. Laurie Eckhardt explained that the investment funds that were in the ELCA had been removed and have now been invested in two Thrivent funds, one for the cemetery and one for the church.

No questions were raised. Since the reports do not require approval, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14.

### Special Congregational Meeting –

President Robin Haugen called a special congregational meeting to order at 11:14 AM with 43 members in attendance, exceeding the 32 required. The purpose of this meeting was to approve an amended 2026 budget, including a pastor salary and benefits. Laurie Eckhardt presented the amended budget to the congregation. A question was raised about how the figures for the pastor salary and benefits were determined. Jennifer Logan, with the call committee, explained that figures were initially determined by using ELCA guidelines but then modified during coordination with the NALC call coordinator.

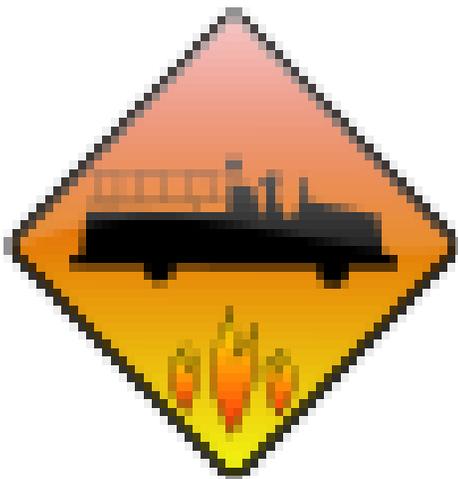
A motion was made by James Sell and seconded by Jim Brooks to approve the amended budget. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the congregation, a motion was made by Ken Wienken and seconded by Cheryl Mellenthin to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully;

Ken Wienken

Council Secretary



Cat Spring VFD BBQ

April 18, 2026

**SAVE THE DATE !**

Come celebrate with us.

More details coming soon.

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

# March



Easter is just around the corner and so much to look forward to!



Youth will have Easter yard crosses in the Narthex. They make a nice gift for a neighbor or friend.  
Free will offering

It's time for those Easter eggs!

Eggs will be in the Narthex starting Mar.8 for those who would like to help fill them with candy for the Egg hunt.

Hunt is at 9:30 Easter morning. Meet in the fellowship Hall. Bring your basket.



## Palm Sunday

Calling all youth! Worship service starts with a parade of palms waving high leading up to the altar to cover our cross with palms.

Youth will hand out palm crosses after worship.



**THE YOUTH WILL BE COOKING UP A DELICIOUS EASTER BREAKFAST!**

**COME GET A PLATE AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP**

**STARTING AT 9:00 AM**

*Don't forget those flowers for the flowering of the cross..*



We had a change of plans. The ice rink is temporarily closed. Our JH and high school group took the opportunity to go to Andretti Go Carting and gaming.



Brooklynn & Bexley



Christa winning BIG



Hunter speed jump rope



Racing fun!



Riley & Rhett  
360 Virtual game

**Acolyte Schedule: March: 1st** Rinley Nelson **8th** Rhett Reichardt

**15th** Layla Ordner **22nd** Riley Hewson **29th** Hunter Hewson



St. John Lutheran Church –  
Cat Spring

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Page 2 of 2

Ken Wienken

Council Secretary

**Join us for Holy Week 2026**

**Sunday**

March 29th	Palm Sunday	10:00 am
April 2nd	Communion Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 pm
April 3rd	<b>No Service on Good Friday</b>	
April 5th	<b><u>Easter Sunday</u></b>	
	Easter Breakfast	9:00 am
	Easter Egg Hunt	9:30 am
	Worship Service	10:00 am

*Bring a handful of flowers if you wish to help flower the cross on Easter !*

*480 Ross Street Cat Spring, Texas 78933 979-865-5444*



# Easter Lily Order

We will place Easter Lilies /Boston Ferns in the Sanctuary again this year. To purchase one or more, complete this form and place it, along with your payment of \$15 per flower, in the box provided on the table in the Narthex. Thank You!

The deadline to order is Sunday March 29th.

**In MEMORY of**

**In HONOR of**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

You can also order plants To the Glory of God, in addition to those ordered above. Please list the number To the Glory of God here \_\_\_\_\_.

**Purchased by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FLOWERS ORDERED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL PAID: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Total Flowers Ordered includes In Memory/In Honor/To the Glory of God.*

*Extra forms will always be available on the table in the Narthex, if you need more room to order. Be sure to include the order form with your payment.*

*Make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Women*

*Please pick up your flowers on April 5th after the 10:00 am Easter Service. Thank you!*