

Good News Journal February 2026

St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Lent: A Season of Reflection and Renewal

Walking with Christ through Prayer, Repentance, and Preparation



In quiet reflection, we prepare our hearts.

As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited into a time of quiet reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Lent is a season set apart for prayer, self-examination, and preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.

It calls us to slow down, to turn inward, and to follow the way of Jesus with humility and devotion. Through fasting, prayer, and acts of service, we journey together toward the hope of the resurrection, mindful of the sacrifices and transformations that lead us to new life.

These forty days remind us that growth and renewal come through patience, discipline, and grace. As we walk with Christ through the shadows, may this Lent be a time of peace, reflection, and faithful preparation, drawing us ever closer to the dawn of Easter morning.



Senior Service

Wednesday February 18th 11:00 am

A Valentine Exchange is Happening !

If you would like to participate, please bring something to exchange

Good Food, Good Friends, Good Times

Chicken Enchiladas will be served !

Feel free to bring a side or a dessert, but not necessary !

Please sign up to host a light dinner for our 2026 Lenten Dinner and Devotional Series.

**Please Come
Join us !**

Sign Up Sheet is in the Narthex

2026 Lenten Dinners

Sign Up to Host



Date

Hosts

(include what you'll

Women of the Church

Wednesday
February 18

Wednesday ,
February 25

Wednesday,
March 4th

Wednesday,
March 11th

Wednesday,
March 18th

Wednesday ,
March 25th

We need two /main dishes per week and drinks.

Serving begins at 6:00 pm,

Two people can sign up together or even a Ministry Group from church !

Lenten Devotional begins at 6:30 pm



St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring

Council Meeting

January 12, 2026

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Robin Haugen at 5:00 PM.

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

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

Members Absent: Doug Neva

Guests – Don Allphin, Christa Klar

Adoption of Agenda – The agenda was adopted with the addition of “Church Siding” under Old Business.

Minutes for final approval – December minutes approved by email

Treasurer Report: Income for the past month was \$28,884 and expenses were \$17,356 for a net profit of \$11,528.

A discussion was held regarding a sizable donation made by a parishioner. This donation is to be known as the “Cameron Mitchell Memorial Building Fund”. The funds are to be used for building maintenance and improvement. The funds are to be tracked as a separate line item in the budget to show how the monies are spent.

Laurie indicated that two CD’s had been purchased with excess funds in the Citizens Bank checking account. One of these CD’s is due in February. Laurie will cash out this CD to have the funds available for the church siding project coming up.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Ken Wienken and seconded by Malcolm Dittert to give the NALC \$2,500. We had previously supported the ELCA with \$2,000 per year. Motion carried.

Pastor Report – Don Alphin gave the pastor’s report, including his visits and communion to the members in nursing homes. He also advised that “The Women of the NALC” are providing a Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday.

Committee Reports

Youth (LYO) –

Christmas play turned out pretty good considering the morning of the play was the first time all the kids were there to practice. One youth could not be in the play, so I had taken over as the horse. Several youths had played two characters, so they were quick to change costumes. Hope everyone enjoyed it.

Our Christmas party had to quickly change dates due to the church and Fellowship Hall being in use, but we were able to all get together on a Tuesday afternoon in the Fellowship Hall with food, games and a gifts exchange.

Sunday school started back up on the 11th. The first few lessons for our Elementary class will be Daniel in the Lion’s Den, Jesus heals the Centurian’s Servant, Peter and John heal a Lame Man.

Confirmation class studied the timing of the Wiseman, the star, the age of Jesus and their location. The next unit is on Kings, starting with Samuel to King David and then onto Solomon.

Next Sunday confirmation class will spend some time organizing the folding chairs in the Fellowship Hall and under the stair well. The next project will be replacing the rubber piece at the ends of the legs if needed on the folding chairs.

In February we plan to get together to make Valentine cards to be given out at February’s Senior serve.

Possibly going ice skating but this was the girl’s idea and I’m not sure how the boys will feel about that. Stay tuned!

A thank you note was put in the newsletter from the youth for our new playground. We started signing Thank you notes to be mailed out as well.

See Page 2



Cemetery Report – Jerry Hennecke was buried on December 9th. Cemetery mowed once in December. Nothing else to report.

House and Grounds – Malcolm Dittert indicated he would be changing the A/C filters in the next week or so.

Old Business:

Laurie is checking to see about getting a credit card from Citizens State Bank. The existing credit cards are about expire. Those cards are in the name of Randy Reichardt. We need a new account under the name of a current council member.

Church Signs – We have received one quote and are waiting on another.

Church Siding – The siding is leaking around the windows on the North wall of the church. This is the windows above the altar. We are in the process of getting quotes to replace the siding on the North wall only at this time.

New Business:

Vacation time for church secretary. – After some discussion and considering Sally’s tenure of nine years, a motion was made by Malcolm and seconded by Laurie to increase Sally’s vacation time from one week (16 hrs.) to two weeks (32 hrs.). Motion carried.

Food for NALC workshop, January 17th. – Sign up sheets were placed in the church and folks pledged to bring sandwiches, chips and deserts for lunch as well as breakfast snacks.

Council Members for 2026 are as follows;

- President - Robin Haugen
- Vice President - Tim Brune
- Secretary - Ken Wienken
- Treasurer - Laurie Eckart
- House and Grounds - Malcolm Dittert and Doug Neva

All council members are to be added to the checking and savings accounts. The outgoing council member, Mary O’Neal, shall be removed from all church related financial accounts.

February Council Assignments:

- February 1: Tim Brune / Ken Wienken
- February 8: Robin Haugen / Doug Neva
- February 15: Laurie Eckart / Robin Haugen
- February 18, Ash Wednesday: Ken Wienken / Doug Neva
- February 22: Malcolm Dittert / Tim Brune

Calendar Approval: The calendar for February was reviewed and after some additions, was approved.

Future Agenda Items: None identified.

Meeting adjournment: With no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer at 6:51.

Respectfully;

Ken Wienken

Council Secretary

Highly requested recipe !!! Janet Allphin
 baked and served this Peach Coffee Cake at
 the NALC meeting , held recently.

—VIRGINIA KRITES CRIDERSVILLE, OH

PREP: 25 MIN. • BAKE: 70 MIN. + COOLING
MAKES: 12 SERVINGS

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1¼ cups sour cream
- 1 can (21 oz.) peach pie filling
- 1 can (15¼ oz.) sliced peaches,
drained

TOPPING

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup quick-cooking oats
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ cup cold butter, cubed

GLAZE

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 to 2 Tbsp. 2% milk

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with sour cream. Beat just until combined.
2. Pour half the batter into a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Combine the pie filling and peaches; spread over batter. Drop the remaining batter by tablespoonfuls over filling.
3. For topping, combine brown sugar, flour, oats and cinnamon in a bowl. Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle over batter.
4. Bake for 70-75 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. In a small bowl, combine confectioners' sugar and enough milk to achieve desired consistency; drizzle over the coffee cake.

Yes, it is crooked.....it's not you !!!!

It is probably me . But YUMMY !!!!

Statement of Financial Position

St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx
 As of December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK - CEMETERY DP	20,218.01
Citizen's State Bank - CD 55253-6	100,000.00
Citizen's State Bank - CD 55253-1-12	100,000.00
Citizen's State Bank - GF	\$400,388.36
Citizen's State Bank - Building Property	4,819.72
Citizen's State Bank-Cemetery	0.00
Citizen's State Bank-Community Care Fund	5,094.98
Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Benevolence	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Disaster	0.00
Citizen's State Bank-Her County	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - LYO	7,482.71
Citizen's State Bank-Memorial Fund	16,816.58
Citizen's State Bank-Men in Mission	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - Music Fund	53.86
Citizen's State Bank - Patio Fund	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - Prayer Shawl	453.83
Citizen's State Bank - Quilts	228.72
Citizen's State Bank - Scholarship Fund	7,021.91
Citizen's State Bank - Sealy Pantry Fund	0.00
Citizen's State Bank-Senior Day	1,076.32
Citizen's State Bank - Thrivent Choice	1,390.00
Citizen's State Bank - Wedding Fund	1,833.05
Citizen's State Bank - WELCA	145.00
Total for Citizen's State Bank - GF	\$477,404.08
Citizen's State Bank-MH	51,872.36
ELCA Endowment 6272908	0.00
ELCA Endowment 6272909	0.00
ELCA Endowment 6273030	0.00
Industry State Bank- CD Cemetery	82,318.93
Petty Cash	100.00
Total for Bank Accounts	\$831,913.38
Total for Current Assets	\$831,913.38
Fixed Assets	\$943,136.78
Total for Assets	\$1,775,050.16

Statement of Financial Position

St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx
 As of December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$8.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Federal WH	0.00
FICA - Med WH	0.00
FICA - SS WH	0.00
Liabilities	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	
Federal Taxes (941/944)	900.66
Portico Benefits Solutions	0.00
Supplemental Term Life	0.00
Total for Payroll Liabilities	\$900.66
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$900.66
Total for Current Liabilities	\$900.66
Total for Liabilities	\$900.66
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	1,514,927.42
Retained Earnings	150,788.62
Net Income	109,435.46
Total for Equity	\$1,774,148.50
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$1,775,050.16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



2-10 Michael and Cindy Daly

- 2-7 Matt Thielemann
- 2-8 William Hegemeyer
- 2-8 Tim Brune
- 2-10 Sharon Brandes
- 2-12 Justin Eckhardt
Sherry Menke
- 2-15 Evan Kalil
Shannon Einkauf
Sara Kuehl
- 2-16 Shirley Dahl
Ellie Schram
- 2-20 Charisse Blezinger
- 2-21 Kristi Kollatschny
- 2-22 Erika Restivo
- 2-23 Tracy Gray
- 2-24 Lacy Dittert
- 2-26 Cole Burger
James Sell
- 2-27 Reed Dittert

MEMBERS IN OUR CARE
Sealy Avir
Delores Dittert
Argent Court –Brenham
Carrie Froebel
HOMEBOUND:
Katherine Washburn

Prevailing Prayer

- 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 Inghish
- 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
- Gwen Reichardt
- Billy Findeisen
- Brian Findeisen
- Pastor Cody Mills
- Please keep the family of Rebecca Oldag, in your prayers, in their time of sorrow. Rebecca is Rose Wienken's sister

We encourage everyone to fill out an **attendance card during the service**. This helps us stay connected and keeps us informed of prayer requests and attendance. If you plan to partake in communion, please note that on your card as well.

Thank you for helping us stay connected as a church family!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Youth Sunday school News

Ms. Lacy's class lessons: Daniel in the Lion's Den, Jesus heals the Centurian's Servant also Peter and John heal a Lame Man.

Confirmation class is studying Samuel, Saul, David and then onto Solomon.



After our Sunday school lessons the Youth will spend some time making cards for some special seniors for Valentines Day.

"Almost Slipped" Youth Event is in the works for February. 22nd tentative date

**Lunch and Ice skating
Memorial City Mall
Psalm 73 Bible discussion**

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.



Acolyte Schedule: February: 1st. Hunter Hewson **8th** Rinley Nelson **15th** Rhett Reichardt
22nd Riley Hewson

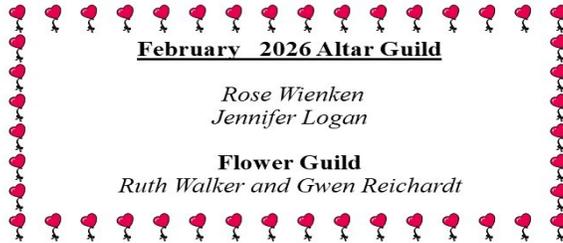
March: 1st Rinley Nelson **8th** Rhett Reichardt **15th** Layla Ordner **22nd** Riley Hewson
29th Hunter Hewson

February 2026 Ministry Duties

St. John Lutheran Church Cat Spring

Flowers: Unless there is an * asterisk by your name, the altar guild understands that you will supply the flowers or plant for that Sunday. If problem arises please call office at 979-865-5444 or **Ruth Walker, Flower Guild, at 713-816-0629**. If you cannot fulfil one of these duties, just call office! Council on Duty- If you cant make it on scheduled day, please check with other Council to trade Sundays.

Date	Council on Duty	Acolyte	Reader	Flowers
2-1	Tim and Ken	Hunter	James	Shirley Dahl
2-8	Robin and Doug	Rinley	Ruth	Sherry Menke
2-15	Laurie and Robin	Rhett	Nancy	Hobsons
2-18 Ash Wednesday	Ken and Doug	Volunteer	Jheri Sell	N/A
2-22	Malcolm and Tim	Riley	Brooklynn	Shirley Herring



February 2026
Cat Spring Texas 78933
480 Ross Street
of Cat Spring, TX
St. John Lutheran Church

