

Brandon—Split Rock Lutheran Parish

P.O. Box 320; 600 Holly Blvd.

Brandon, SD 57005



Newsletter 2026

Brandon-Split Rock Lutheran
Newsletter May 2026



The 14th century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich, once wrote, “The fruit and the purpose of prayer is to be 'oned' with and like God in all things.” After suffering immense pain she created this body prayer as a simple and beautiful way to pray without words. Julian invites us to be in our bodies, embrace our physicality as a way to ground ourselves, and find oneness with the divine and with all living things. As you pray this prayer it can help you connect your heart, mind and body and to more fully experience God’s love for every part of you.

- **AWAIT** (hands at waist, cupped up to receive): Await God’s presence, however it may come to you.
- **ALLOW** (reach up, hands open): Allow a sense of God’s presence) to come ...or not...and be what it is.
- **ACCEPT** (hands at heart, cupped towards body): Accept as a gift whatever comes or does not come. Accept that you don’t know everything, that you are not in charge.
- **ATTEND** (hands outstretched, ready to be responsive): Attend to what you are called to, willing to be present and be God’s love in the world, however God calls you to.

Rev. Elizabeth Hoium
Senior Pastor

Join us starting May 20th for worship on Wednesday nights, Summer Edition!

Worship will be more informal, as we walk together, read a Bible story together, pray, sing, stop at the playground and have a treat.

All ages are encouraged to participate- we will gather in the Friendship room when the weather isn't good and at the picnic shelter on nice days!

All are welcome to Walk in the Word anytime and we hope you join us Wednesday nights!



Walking in the Word

The Path includes:

- ✝ Prayer
- ✝ A link to the audio recording of the Bible story of the week
- ✝ Art along the path, connecting the Bible story
- ✝ A blessing as you go on your way

readings and art from [the Book of Belonging](#)

walk the path anytime

- ✝ located inside thru the education hallways
- ✝ located outside thru the tree path behind the picnic shelter



Walk the path together: Wednesdays at 6pm in the summer

NAPS Happenings...



Noah's Ark Preschool Happenings!

Our students LOVED learning the Easter Story during the month of April!





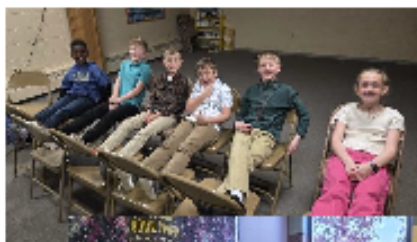
Hello from Children's Ministries & Bible Basics!



BLC 5th graders

We are counting down the days until summer – but that also means our Sunday & Wednesday class time is coming to an end. What a joy it's been spending this school year with our amazing BLC kiddos! As we wrap up in May, please help us in thanking our Children's Ministries & Bible Basics volunteers. They are truly the foundation of these programs, and we couldn't do this each week without their faithful dedication. Volunteers – THANK YOU for sharing your time, talents, energy & love with our kids this year. Your impact matters more than you know!

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



Kim Becker, David Bell, Jackson Burns, Lindsey DeNet, Olivia Ericsson, Amanda Frerichs, Alisha Gebur, Nicole Griese, Leif Hage, Andrea Hatlestad, Rebecca Hauge, Tena Heikes, Shayla Hoiland, Jessica Jansma, Cali Johnson, Alyssa Johnson, Wilma Kirkeby, Kelly Klingenberg, Kaylee Koob, Courtney Kremer, Jess Kriech, Lucy LaMont, Berkley Lindner, Jason Melcher, Kailey Miller, Matt Miller, Camille Parker, Heidi Reimer, Gretchen Schilling, Addison Scholten, Beth Schroeder, Chelsea Stills, Stacy Stoltenberg, Hope Stultz, Elly Swartz, Sarah Tarbox, Wes Tarbox, Danni Toates, Lindsey Tommeraasen, Logan Torgrude, Nicole Truebenbach, Ashley VanRiper, Logan Walkes & Hannah Walkes

May Sunday School

May 3: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

May 10: Last Morning of Class!

May Wednesday School & Bible Basics

May 6: Last Night of Class!

Music Ministry



As we close out another wonderful program year, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for the musicians who make up our Choir and Bell Choir here at BLC. It is truly humbling to consider that roughly 30 volunteers are giving approximately 2.5 hours each week to rehearse and lead our worship together, adding up to around 90 hours of shared time and talent every single week, or nearly 3,240 hours throughout the course of a program year. The depth and care that these musicians bring to their craft, week in and week out, is a genuine gift to this congregation. Thank you.

While the program year is winding down, music at BLC does not take a summer vacation. Keep an eye out for announcements about summer music opportunities, including Choir, Bells, and special ensembles such as a trumpet ensemble. These summer offerings will have their own unique shape and rhythm, and whether you are a longtime musician or someone who has been quietly wondering if there is a place for you, I hope you will consider joining us.

Finally, I want to encourage you to take part in our Wednesday worship series, *Walking in the Word*, beginning May 20th. You can gather with us at 6:00PM on Wednesday evenings, or engage with the series at any time through the podcast. Either way, it is a wonderful opportunity to stay rooted in Scripture and community throughout the summer.

Peace be with you,

Matt

Minister of Music





Wednesday Night Meals

You're invited to Wednesday night meals!

Meals begin serving at 4:45

Recommended donation for the meal is \$6.00 per person.

Menu

May 6-Broasted Chicken & Mac & Cheese

A Christian Women's Luncheon is at **11:30am on Thursday, May 21,**
at The Gruff.

Join us for food and fellowship!

All are Welcome!





Crossroads Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering - April 25 (Saturday)

Brandon Women of the ELCA was represented by 19 participants at Beaver Valley Lutheran! We all enjoyed a day of speakers, visiting with our neighbors in Christ and especially enjoyed the remodeled and updated church facilities after the tragedy of the tornado damage a few years ago.

Congratulations to the High School Scholarship Winners

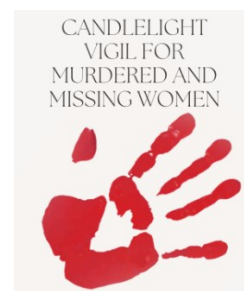
The Brandon Women of the ELCA have partnered with our Brandon Lutheran Endowment Fund to award 4 High School Seniors with \$500 Scholarships! Our winners for 2026 are: Danielle Toates (USD), Jackson Burns (Hawaii Pacific University), Olaf Lindquist (Gustafus Adolfus, St. Peter, MN), and Addison Scholten (Creighton University, Omaha) Congratulations to our recipients and to all the Brandon Lutheran graduates.

Saturday, May 2nd - Faithful Greetings (10 AM in downstairs Fellowship Hall)

Share your creativity with the gals as they create greeting cards for many occasions. Welca also sends out many greeting cards to our shut-ins and others as the situation is appropriate. Lots of donated supplies to make use of with Terri Grothe leading the group.

Sunday, May 3rd, is Rachel's Day. In 1996 the Women of the ELCA promised to encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel's Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15-17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of children to gun violence and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.

Tuesday, May 5 - "MMIW" - In honor of **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Day**, Tuesday, May 5, you may join leaders, staff and more as we pray together, "Candlelight Vigil for Murdered and Missing Women." This prayer vigil gives an opportunity to raise awareness, provide support and seek justice for these Indigenous women who have gone missing, been murdered or suffered from violence. Learn more and/or participate by checking the resources available on the web page: womenoftheelca.org.





Circles meet on **May 20 & 21** - Circles are small group Bible Studies that meet once a month. A great way to get to know your fellow church members, share ideas, and grow in your faith. Invite a friend to join you! All are welcome to attend any of these groups:

Wednesday: May 20

Priscilla Circle - 1:00 pm in Martin Luther Room

Anna Circle - 1:00 pm in Friendship Room

Thursday - May 21

Bethany Circle - 1:00 pm at Bethany Meadows Pheasant Dining Room

Martha Circle - 7:00 pm in Friendship Room



Summer Camp is Just Around The Corner!

Camp provides unforgettable Christ-centered experiences for individuals, families, and groups. Whether you're seeking adventure in the Black Hills, serenity on the prairie, or renewal by the water, our Lutheran camps offer something for everyone.

Our Women of the ELCA here at Brandon Lutheran highly recommend a faith-filled week of camp at either **Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota** or **Shetek Lutheran Ministries!** We will help with the cost by awarding a **\$100 "campership"** to anyone from the congregation that applies. Please check with our youth director or the church office for an application. Flyers and info for the camps is also available or can be found on-line.

Experience a Christ-centered program with faith at the heart of everything planned, where everyone is welcome and a way to immerse yourself in the natural beauty of God's creation.

Voices of Passion is our FaceBook group page for Brandon Women of the ELCA. Join the group and enjoy our posts related to activities and stories related to Women of the ELCA and our church.



APRIL

Baptisms



Congratulations and God's blessings to Colter James Taylor, Evelyn Jayde Taylor, Avri Chase Taylor, and Grace Marie Taylor who were baptized at Brandon Lutheran Church on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Parents are Thomas and Carlynn Taylor.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Nora Lynn Hart who was baptized at Brandon Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 26, 2026. Parents are Joshua and Nena Hart.





Welcome to our new members of Brandon Lutheran! Make sure when you see them around to say hello and welcome! If you have been visiting and would like to join our church, please email the church office at blc@brandonlutheran.org to find out more information. Welcome!

Mike and Stephanie Olson



BRANDON LUTHERAN COMMUNITY GARDEN

May 1 – October 17th

*Grow your own fresh vegetables
in a welcoming community space!*

\$20
PER PLOT

Reserve Your Spot Today!

*Sign your contract and submit payment at the
Brandon Lutheran Church Office*

Call with Questions: 605-582-3401

Office Hours:

- Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Connect with the community



Enjoy gardening all season long



*Help make a difference — extra produce is
donated to the local Food Pantry.*

**Community Garden – Brandon Lutheran Church
Covenants with the Community**

Please read and initial each statement.

___ We agree that we are co-creating with God, the other gardeners and our community. We are responsible for our plot.

___ As people of God, I (we) promise to care for our space through weeding, soil improvements and keeping our plot(s) free of junk and trash.

___ I (we) share equipment. When I (we) use the hose, it will be coiled and return to the water faucet neatly. Any church tools are cleaned and returned to the shed. I (we) will check the faucet to be sure it is off.

___ To keep our land clean and beautiful, I (we) will take unused produce or plant material home.

___ Care for your neighbor's plot. I (we) will not use perennial plants, tall vines that will shade other plots or invasive plants.

___ This is our plot until October 17, 2026. By that date, I (we) will have the area cleaned and free of debris. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of a plot next year. I will leave it READY for next year.

___ I (we) will keep the safety of everyone in our minds. Paths free of tools or wire cages. Anyone of any age not working the garden will need to be outside the space.

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**Plot Registration Form
Return to BLC Church office**

Name of Plot caregiver _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Kind of Plot requested (please check your preference. There are only 5 raised beds)

___ Raised bed 3'-4" x 6'-4" x 17" d (\$20.00 each)

___ Ground Plot 6' x 12' (\$20.00 each) Plot number _____

___ Multiple plots _____

Planting for this year may start Friday May 1, 2026

**Brandon Lutheran Church
Community Food Truck Night
Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

5pm-7:30pm

Family Treats Ice Cream

Lou Bas Lunch Wagon

Heavenly Foods

Back Yard BBQ

Breaking Burrito

Mary's Mountain Cookies

605 Island Guy

Marco's Concessions



ALL ARE WELCOME



BLC Community BBQ
Wed. June 3rd 4:30-7:00

Brandon Lutheran Church
600 E Holly Blvd.

Smoked BBQ Pulled Pork Meal \$10

Walking Taco Meal \$8

Hot Dog Meal \$6

(Preorder Smoked Pulled Pork by the pound)

Family Treats Ice Cream Truck on site!(5-8pm)

**RAIN FOREST FALLS, EXPLORING THE NATURE OF
GOD VBS & CHURCH SERVICE AT 6:30**

Fundraiser for Women of BLC



Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

Raffle

All are Welcome!

Watch Anytime & Online

Local access replays of our worship can be experienced through Alliance Communications cable network.

Digital Channel 22

Replay of the 8:30 Sunday worship is on Monday at 6:30pm.

Replay of the 6:00pm Wednesday worship is on Thursday at 6:30pm.

Both services are also available "On Demand" at any time on Alliance Digital/Streaming.



Off-hours & emergency
Brandon Lutheran
cell phone.

Text or call 605-961-1836
when you need to reach us
when the office is closed.





Split Rock Lutheran

The Mission of Split Rock Lutheran is welcoming and serving with joyful hearts and glorifying God in all things. We are a growing family of Christ's disciples seeking to proclaim the Gospel to all those in need of God's grace, mercy and love.

May Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm is Split Rock Council Meeting

May Serving Schedule

Sunday, May 3

9:30am

Greet & Usher

Lector

Tech

Pianist

Recitation Sunday

Senior Recognition (Brecken Weir)

Last Day of Sunday School

Duane & Bonnie Bly

Stephanie Tighe

Becky Heggen

Donna Schwartz

Sunday, May 10

9:30am

Greet & Usher

Lector

Communion Server

Communion Bread

Acolyte

Tech

Pianist

Mother's Day

Dick & Shally Rogen

Sharla Janssen

Stephanie Tighe

Monica Nussbaum

Jonathan Swenson

Jolene Kujawa

Jan Schroeder

Sunday, May 17

8:30am

Greet & Usher
Lector
Tech
Organist

Summer Worship Time Begins

Kyle & Brittany Lessman
Steph Nelson
Brittany Lessman
Nancy Gross

Thursday, May 21

11:30am

Christian Women's Luncheon @
The Gruff

Sunday, May 24

8:30am

Greet & Usher
Lector
Communion Server
Communion Bread
Acolyte
Tech
Organist
Work Serving Group

(Pentecost) Congregation is to
Wear Red
Summer Coffee Fellowship Begins
Gerrit & Becky Brands
Deb Weir
David Sorenson
Monica Nussbaum
Jersey Hansen
Stephanie Tighe
Nancy Gross
Loaves & Fishes

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Friday & Saturday, May 29-30

SD Synod (ELCA) Assembly
(Our Savior's Lutheran, SF)

Sunday, May 31

8:30am

Greet & Usher
Lector
Tech
Organist
Work Serving Group

Holy Trinity

Kyle & Amanda Neu
Alex Rogen
Becky Heggen
Nancy Gross
Sheep Herders



Worship Schedule for Brandon Lutheran & Split Rock

BLC: Sundays at 8:30 & 10:45 am

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Split Rock: 9:30 am on Sundays

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8am-4pm

Friday 8am-12pm

Contact us at 605-582-3401 or bhc@brandonlutheran.org

BLC Facebook Page is: www.facebook.com/BrandonLutheranChurch

600 E. Holly Blvd.
PO Box 320
Brandon, SD 57005

Our Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Hoium
Senior Pastor

Rev. Aimee Pakan
Associate Pastor

Rev. Randy Gehring
Sabbatical Interim Pastor

Melissa Wipf
Office Manager

Scott Hupke
Finance Manager

Kristin McInerney
Director of Children's Ministries

Madie Runyan
Senior High Youth Minister

Matthew Tylutki
Minister of Music

Larry Olson
Contemporary Music Leader

Amy Bray
Wedding Coordinator

Nicole Jellema
Director of
Noah's Ark Preschool

Laurie Adams
Erin Sislo
NAPS Teachers

Ann Beesley
Jodi Myers
Kia Reuland
Lauren Curtis
NAPS Assistants