

# Brandner

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opportunity to look at Freeman — not just the (health care facilities), but also the community,” he said. “We just felt very welcome here, and it also gave them a chance to look at me.”

The interim role also provided a ready-made transition for taking on permanent duties. However, he admitted differences when he changed his status.

“When I had the interim role, I kind of looked at, ‘What are the priorities today? Somebody else will be the administrator who makes the decisions where we go tomorrow,’” he said. “Once I moved from interim to permanent, the role changed. My vision and the board needed to be in sync, and now I was taking on a long-term approach.”

FRHS board member Lori Uecker told the *Freeman Courier* weekly newspaper she couldn’t be happier with the hire.

“I feel like I can speak for the whole board and tell you that we are truly relieved that the facility didn’t have to limp along without an administrator,” Uecker told the *Courier*.

Brandner’s background meshes well with the FRHS needs, Uecker told the *Courier*.

“Because Nick brings with him so many years of experience in the health care field, and many of those in facilities like ours, we just felt very comfortable offering him the position,” she said.

## BRINGING EXPERIENCE

Brandner brings about a quarter-century of health care experience in a wide variety of settings.

A Herreid native, he earned his degree as a registered nurse from Presentation College in Aberdeen and remains a licensed nurse in South Dakota. He earned his bachelor’s degree in business from Northern State University in Aberdeen and his master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

His career in health administration began at Med-center One in Bismarck, North Dakota. He then worked as vice president for patient care at St. Mary’s Hospital in Pierre as part of the Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) system. He was then promoted to administrator at another CHI facility in Albany, Minnesota.

Brandner moved back to South Dakota, where he served for three years as administrator at the Redfield hospital, an independent facility like FRHS.

“At Freeman, we’re an independent hospital, but we work with both the Avera and Sanford health care systems,” he said. “Our medical records are actually on the Avera MEDITECH platform. Our support for that (platform) comes out of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.”

Brandner praised his employees for their professionalism.

“I have a lot of respect for the medical staff and for the staff in general,” he said. “We’re moving forward and looking for ways to improve things.”

However, Brandner

admits the challenge of finding and keeping good staff, particularly in a rural area, can be difficult.

“We currently have two physicians, and we have a third physician on board in October,” he said. “We have two mid-level practitioners. We have a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner and we’re recruiting an advanced practice practitioner.”

However, staffing remains a concern in all departments, including nurses and aides, at each facility, he said. FRHS employs approximately 140 full- and part-time employees, he said.

“Keeping staff up to par can be challenging,” he said.

FRHS benefits from the physicians and other health care professionals with the Avera and Sanford systems who provide services from Yankton, Sioux Falls and elsewhere, Brandner said. FRHS has gained a great benefit from the electronic services (e-services) offered through the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital emergency department in Yankton and an e-pharmacy service through area pharmacists, he said.

## ONE TEAM

Health care remains a business, and Brandner focuses on finances, costs, reimbursements, fundraising and updating facilities and equipment. Next week, FRHS is installing a 64-slice CT scanner as part of its technology upgrade.

Many times, it means making tough choices and looking at making the most of limited resources, he said.

“My philosophy is that a place like Freeman won’t have everything that the big centers do,” he said. “There are things we choose to do and things we have to do.”

Brandner noted the importance of preparing for any turbulent waters in the years ahead.

“Health care is constantly changing, and we look at all these things,” he said. “The rules are changing all the time. In Congress, they are still talking about eliminating Obamacare. We don’t know what that means and what’s coming in to replace it. We’re not sure where it’s going.”

Regardless of where national health reform goes, rural health facilities such as

FRHS will continue to play a vital role, Brandner said.

“To have a hospital and other health care facilities, it’s tremendous for a community like this. It’s an economic engine for the community,” he said.

“It’s also services that you don’t have to go out of town for, especially when we’re 35 miles from Yankton and 50 miles from Sioux Falls. But also having the e-services immediately available is a tremendous asset.”

At FRHS, the core mission will remain focused on the people served by the facilities, Brandner said.

“A rural community hospital is extremely important in a state like South Dakota,” he said. “It’s extremely important that we run the organization the best we can and that we stay out there in front when it comes to serving the public’s needs.”

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## Come Celebrate With Us. . .



### Easter Services

March 29, Palm Sunday

11am - Coffee

11:30am - Worship with Marjory Coker

April 5, Easter Sunday

10:30am - Breakfast, free will offering

11:30am - Worship

April 26, HisWay Young Adult Ministry

11:30am - Worship, lunch to follow, then yoga class

### Peace Church

206 E. 31st. Street, Yankton, SD 57078 • 665-0448  
email [ppcoffice@iw.net](mailto:ppcoffice@iw.net)

Everyone Welcome



Fev. Jennifer Swier



Palm Sunday, March 29th

8am Worship service with communion

10:30am Worship service with communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

10am Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

7pm Living Last Supper with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3rd

12 noon Good Friday Service

7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness)

Easter Sunday, April 5th

6:30am Easter Sunrise Service with Communion at Garden of Memories

8am & 10:30am Easter Festival Services with Communion

Easter Breakfast - Served by the high school youth from 7am - 10:30am

They will gladly accept your freewill donation for "March For Meals" for The Center

### St. John's Lutheran Church

1009 Jackson, Yankton • 665-7337

### St. Benedict Parish

1500 St Benedict Dr. • Yankton, SD

Fr. Ken Lulf

Holy Thursday, April 2nd

7:00pm, Mass

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:00pm, Service

Holy Saturday, April 4th

8:00pm, Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 5th

8:30am & 10:30am, Masses



### Riverview Reformed Church

[www.riverviewreformed.org](http://www.riverviewreformed.org)

#### Sunrise Service

7:30am

Easter Breakfast and egg hunt to follow

#### Church Service

9:30am

No Sunday School



Come and Worship At

### Trinity Lutheran Church

403 Broadway, Yankton

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP - April 2, 7pm

The fourth graders will receive their first communion.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP - April 3, 7pm



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP - April 5

6:30am Sunrise Service

8:15am Easter Worship

10:00am Easter Worship

Holy Communion will be celebrated at all Easter services

Youth will be serving breakfast from 7:30am - 10am



Holy Thursday, April 2nd

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Adoration to 11pm, Confessions available 8:10pm)

Good Friday, April 3rd

3:00pm Solemn Liturgy

(Divine Mercy Chaplet & Confessions available afterwards)

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 4th

8:00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 5th

Masses 8am, 9:30am & 11am

2pm (Spanish)

### Sacred Heart Parish

509 Capitol Street, Yankton • Fr. Mark Lichter • Fr. Robert Wullweber • 665-3655

### First United Methodist Church



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church™

207 W. 11th Street

Rev. Ron Johnson



Wednesday, April 1st 7:15pm Lenten Video Series

Thursday, April 2nd

7:00pm Maundy Thursday  
Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, April 3rd

8:00pm Good Friday  
Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunday  
7:00am Easter Sunrise  
Breakfast Following Service

8:30am

11:00am Easter Worship Services

### Sacred Heart Monastery

The Yankton Benedictines invite you to join them —

Holy Thursday:  
7:00 p.m. Mass

Good Friday:  
3:00 p.m. Service  
Both in Bishop Marty Chapel

Holy Saturday:  
Easter Vigil Mass, 8:00 p.m.  
Services begin outside in front of Chapel.

Easter Sunday: No Mass



Celebrate the joy of

Easter with the

### United Church of Christ (Congregational)

5th & Walnut • Yankton SD

March 29 8:45 and 11am

Palm Sunday Service  
3pm UCC Adult Choir Concert  
"REQUIEM"

April 2 7pm

Maundy Thursday Service

April 3 7pm

Good Friday Service

April 5 8:45 and 11am  
10am

Easter Celebration Service  
Brunch & Children's Bingo for  
Easter Egg Surprise



### Calvary Baptist Church

2407 Broadway, Yankton, SD • 605-665-5594  
[www.cbchurch.com](http://www.cbchurch.com)

Good Friday, April 3

6:00pm Worship Service with Communion

Easter Sunday, April 5

6:30am Sunrise Service

8:30am Potluck Breakfast

9:30am Easter Egg Hunt

10:30am Worship Service



### Worship With Us

Good Friday

Worship & Communion 7p.m.

Resurrection Sunday

Brunch 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



205 W. 3rd St.



Holy Week 2015

Wednesday, April 1 12:00 Noon The Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday  
6:00pm The Holy Eucharist  
with Agape Meal

Thursday, April 3

Good Friday  
12:00pm Good Friday Service  
5:15pm Way of the Cross

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday  
7:30am The Holy Eucharist  
8:15 - 9:45am Breakfast  
10:00am The Holy Eucharist and Baptism  
Easter Egg Hunt  
All Are Most Welcome.

### Christ Episcopal Church

517 Douglas, Yankton, SD • 665-2456

### Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Good Friday Worship - 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Song Service - 9:15am

Easter Breakfast - Following Easter Service

Easter Radio Service "Your Message of Peace"  
9:05am KYNT 1450am

Pastor Christian Sulzle • 665-4793  
201 E 25th Street • Yankton