

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



Pastor's Column

June 19th, known as Juneteeth, commemorates a day when our brothers and sisters of African descent could breathe a little more freely. On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, enslaved Africans were read federal orders that they were freed, even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed over two years prior. They didn't know they were free because, in spite of the law, they were still brutalized by those who weaponized power. This was this liberatory announcement that initiated the joyful reunion of long-separated loved ones and the work of reconstructing after centuries of being held down by the harsh slave system. Today, families of African descent throughout the United States celebrate this Freedom Day.

It is an important day for all people, of all ethnicities and backgrounds, to pause and reflect on the sinful nature of systemic racism and oppression in our world. It is a day for us to reflect, repent, and then commit ourselves to working toward a world where all people are treated as beloved children of God, made in God's own image. Our faith teaches us that God is a lover of freedom. God has an ear, and I would argue a keen and particular ear to the cries of those who long to be free from oppression.

Here is a beautiful prayer from the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal. I pray it speaks to you:

O God, in your divine mystery you embrace difference in unity, and you call your people to live in peace with all. We pray for an end to racial prejudice. Free us from the fear of difference. Free our society from centuries of violence against the other. Break down the walls that separate your children by color, culture, or religion. Transform discrimination into a passion for justice. Guide us to nurture a society that embodies reconciliation and cooperation among all, for the sake of the one who embodies your love, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Mandy

AUGUSTANA - June**CIRCLES**

June 3: 9:00 am Martha Circle

USHERS

Terry Engel, Jim Leopold, Andrew Freitag,
Andre Freitag, Mark Kulseth

LECTORS

June 1: Les Zellmann
8: Judy Thulien
15: Jean Leopold
22: Kirsten Freitag
29: Leora Ask – Joint @ Augustana

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please call the church office if you wish to provide altar flowers for a particular Sunday, and your name will be placed on the schedule.

ALTAR GUILD

Lisa Carlson, Tami Larson, Melanie Fredin

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Joyce Wolner**
\$385.00 – Special Offering
\$25.00 – Missionary Support
\$50.00 – World Hunger
\$50.00 – Radio Broadcast
\$50.00 – Stained Glass Fund
\$25.00 – Music/Technology

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Please call the church office to sponsor our Missionary. The cost is \$20.00 per week.
June: Available

NOISY OFFERING

Noisy Offering will be on Sunday, June 29th.
Donations will go to the
ELCA National Youth Gathering Fund

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Church Men's Group

AUGUSTANA - June**TRANSITIONS****BAPTISM**

We welcomed **Sawyer Jean Rozeboom**, daughter of Kyle & Justine Rozeboom, into God's Family and AES Ministries on May 11, 2025.

Please continue to keep Sawyer and her family in your prayers as she grows in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.

East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month, and the last two of the four 5th Sundays of 2025. Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month, and the first two of the four 5th Sundays of 2025. To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

June 22nd & 29th: Available

ELECTRONIC GIVING

1. Electronically: visit church website and click on the "Secure Contributions" tab, or scanning our QR Code
2. Secure Contributions: visit church Website www.augustanachurch.org
3. Give+Text: from your phone, text number 844-686-4439 (unique to Augustana)
4. Offering envelopes: through the mail or into the Drop box.



Questions? Contact Financial Secretary, Deanna Hoffman 507-317-7724.

GREETERS

June 1: Les & Kristi Zellmann
8: Lisa Carlson
15: Ashley Johnson
22: Deanna Hoffmann
29: Bill & Kirsten Freitag

COMMUNION SERVERS

June 1:
8: Jill Beckius

**AUGUSTANA WELCA
GREETING CARDS**

WELCA will be selling greeting cards at a special price during coffee hour June 29th and until they are gone.

EAST

PRAYER CONCERNS: Cub, Brenda, Mike, Sam, Jamie, Marie, Darryl, Phyllis, Tim, Bruce, Tom, Chloe, Orval

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

Needed through April	\$ 30,696.68
Received through April	21,897.12
Behind through April	- \$ 8,799.56
Received in April	\$ 13,655.13

VISITING COMMITTEE

Kris Suess, Cathy Anderson

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll, Cathy Anderson

Happy Birthday Happy Baptismal Date

5 Gary Bridges 10-9
 9 Ireland Essler 8-06
 14 Lorita Nasman 7-12
 15 Wes Beck 7-17
 Marie Christenson 7-4
 18 Macey Shellum 8-11
 Mallory Shellum 8-11
 19 Kale Jurgens 10-05
 20 Bill Menssen 7-16
 Vienna Schmidt 4-23
 21 Sandy Husby 7-28
 22 Lucy Christenson 2-28
 23 Betty Fast 6-23
 25 Francey Anderson 9-01
 Ripley Jurgens 12-22
 Annika Torkelson 7-06
 27 Peter Christenson 7-31
 28 Matthew Jurgens 8-01
 29 Joe Garza 6-29

Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan

WORK DAY JUNE 14th

Work Day is set for Saturday, June 14th at 9:00 am.
 Your help would be appreciated.
 Many hands make for lots done and more fun!
 Lunch will be provided!
 See you on the 14th!

EAST

TRANSITIONS

RADIO BROADCASTS

June 1: First Lutheran, St. James
 8: East
 15: First Lutheran, St. James
 22: Augustana
 29: Augustana

RADIO SPONSORS

Broadcasts sponsored by East:

June 8: Tom and Cathy Anderson

July 13:

August 10:

August 31:

If you would like to sponsor any of these broadcasts in 2025, please contact Susan.

Cost is \$40.00.

LECTORS

June 1: Kris Suess
 8: Torkelsons
 15: Tom Anderson
 22: Sonja Coleman
 29: Joint at Augustana

USHER

George Nasman

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

We would like to improve the lighting
 in the Sanctuary, and
 we would like to add cameras in the
 Sanctuary to improve
 the Facebook broadcast.

If you would be willing to contribute to
 these projects, your donation would be
 greatly appreciated.

Donations can be put in the envelopes in the
 pews, or designated checks can be put in the
 offering plate, or mailed to Sonja –
 39702 780th Ave., St. James.
 Thank you for your help!



AES JUNE NEWS



AUGUSTANA GRADUATES:

The St. James Graduation Ceremony is Friday, May 30th, 7:00 pm in the High School Event Center.

Cohen Dannhoff, Son of Nicholas & Jennifer Dannhoff

Dylan Reid, Son of Ryan Reid and Steph Reid

Talyn Tande, Son of Adam & Ashley Johnson and Seth & Kaye Tande

Carter Wolner, Son of Michael & Jody Wolner

Senior Recognition Sunday was May 18th. Congratulations, Graduates!

BIBLE CAMPERS

These AES Youth will be attending bible camp at Lake Shetek or Green Lake this summer: **Erza, Vincent, and Erick Avila; Dacen and Emery Anderson; Johnathan and Thomas Berg; Miriam France; Bella Garza; Abigail and Rebecca Meyer; and Penny Schmidt.** Keep these youth in your thoughts and prayers!

WELCOME to "ALL CREATION SINGS" for SUMMER WORSHIP 2025!

We will introducing new hymns and liturgy to our summer worship! "All Creation Sings" is a supplement to our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. We would like to start using this hymnal in June for our Sunday morning worship services. Some familiar tunes, but many new ones.

AT AUGUSTANA:

As with any new music, we have to become familiar with it. We would like to offer "introduction rehearsals" over the next few weeks. Please consider joining us on Sunday mornings June 1st and June 8th at 9:00 AM (before coffee hour) in the sanctuary.

We'll spend a few minutes each week looking at what this new hymnal will add to our worship! Any questions, please let us know. Heide and Terry

AT EAST:

Lisa, Sonja, Janet and our choir will be "checking out" the new hymnal and introducing the new hymns.

AUGUSTANA WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT - JULY 30th

Save the date! Women of Augustana (all ages) are invited to a women's noon luncheon on July 30th at River's Edge Grill at 12:00 pm. Mark your calendars! More details coming soon!

AUGUSTANA FLOWERS

We are looking for volunteers to help water flowers. There will be a watering can and some ice cream pails near the spigot just north of the Education door so nobody should have to go into the church to get water.

If you are able to help out, please contact Jeanne Miest at 507-380-3050 or Nancy Kunkel at 507-317-0795. If anyone sees weeds (dandelions, grass, etc.) growing in the rocks or bark, please take a moment to remove them.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Kristi Zellman, for shopping and planting the church flowers. Jayne Anderson, thank you for the Thrivent card, and the Men's Group for purchasing the 4 flower baskets from the youth for the flower pots. Special thanks to all who are willing to help water this summer.

Martha Circle

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 21ST - 24TH

VBS will be held July 21st – July 24th at Augustana Lutheran Church from 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

FINANCIAL FACTS		APRIL 2025
	April	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 13,254.17	\$ 59,416.14
Total Expenses	- \$ 15,103.49	\$ 67,025.78
	- \$ 1,849.32	- \$ 7,609.64

Oops! April wasn't such a good month. As you can see, the Month and Year-to-Date total is in the negative, as we move into summer when giving is typically lower, it will not sustain us. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support our Augustana/AES Ministries.

Respectfully Submitted, Lauren Moll - Treasurer

MAKE A MONTHLY DIFFERENCE!

Your ongoing support is vital to your church and the programs offered. Every monthly gift, regardless of size, adds up to a powerful impact. Scan the QR code or go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNR9/home> to set up your monthly contribution.

Summertime is a busy time with vacations, weekend camping trips, visit to your cabin, etc. Please remember to continue giving even when you are unable to attend services this Summer. Your donations are vital to keep our church growing and thriving.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 SWMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY - JUNE 6th - 7th

Members of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod will gather at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, MN on Friday June 6th at 6:00 pm and recess on Saturday, June 7th at 5 pm.

This year's theme is "...That my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." – John 15:11

Our delegates are Tom Anderson and Jim and Shirley Moody.

GREEN LAKE QUILT AUCTION - July 11th - 12th

This year's auction and Maker's Market will be held Friday and Saturday, July 11th and 12th.

Quilts and Silent Auction items need to be submitted by July 2nd. Donations are accepted at any time.

More information is available at <https://www.gllm.org/quilt-auction.html>.

EAST SVEADAH L CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – May 8, 2025

The East Sveadah L Church Council met on Thursday, May 8 at 7 pm. Those present were Dale Anderson, Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Lori Urevig, Pastor Mandy and Sonja Coleman.

Absent: Susan Anderson and Cindy Torkelson

(continued)

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer concerns brought forth by the council.

We dispensed with the reading of the council minutes from the April 10, 2025 meeting.

Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary and Kris Suess, Treasurer presented their reports. A motion by Wayne, seconded by Lori, and passed to approve the reports as presented.

Tom presented the bills with approval to pay by the council.

A discussion took place on the noisy offerings for April and May. A motion by Janet, seconded by Wayne, and passed to use both offerings for local fire departments.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- ROAR has finished until fall.
- Pastor Mandy held the last confirmation class and Confirmation will be October 26th at East.
- Youtherans group had a bonfire and games at East for their last meeting until fall.
- Holy Week and Easter went well, but AES will decide if a time change is needed.
- Pastor Mandy has done a lot of visiting with lots of mileage.
- Synod Assembly is June 6 & 7. A motion by Dale, seconded by Lori, and passed to send a \$100 offering to the conference.
- New member Sunday will be August 3.
- We're looking forward to some outdoor services again this summer.
- Sunday, June 1, Deacon Lyla will be conducting the services at both churches.

AES REPORT: No meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Mother's Day flowers are ordered.

NEW BUSINESS:

- New mulch is needed for the Memorial Garden. The Cemetery Board will be asked to help with funding.
- Updated lighting in the sanctuary was discussed. We are asking the congregation to help with donations for this project.
- New cameras to help with the services on Facebook are needed and Council is asking for donations to help with this project.
- Work Day is scheduled for June 14. If you can help, it is appreciated.

As there was no further business, a motion by Wayne, seconded by Dale, and passed to adjourn.

The next church council meeting will be June 12, 2025.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – May 14, 2025

Present: Sandy Berg, John Coleman, Stan Kunkel, Pastor Mandy, Darrick Miest, Bob Moll, Dean Swenstad, Lynn Watson, Jill Beckius

Absent: Andy Freitag, Nicole Meyer, Jeff Price

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm. Sandy shared devotions.

A. New Council member to replace Jim-Jodi Coleman. Motion by Lynn to approve Jodi Coleman as new council member was seconded by Sandy.

B. Council members brought forward prayer concerns and Pr. Mandy led us in prayer.

C. Motion to approve last month's meeting was made by Lynn and seconded by Darrick.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pr. Mandy presented the Treasurer's report for Lauren who was unable to attend. Noted higher expenses for the month were \$700 for SW MN Synod commitment, \$643 music copyright payment, and \$465 for SW MN Synod Assembly which Jim and Shirley Moody will attend. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Lynn and seconded by Sandy.

Pr. Mandy's Report: Confirmation, Youtheran's group, and ROAR programs all ended this last month.

(continued)

Holy Week and Easter Sunday were well attended. Pr. Mandy is requesting an offering to be given at the Synod Assembly. This offering will be going to the Youth Gatherings. Motion made by Sandy to give \$200 from the coffee hour fund for the Synod Assembly offering and this was seconded by Jodi. New member Sunday was set for August 3 at both East and Augustana. Sandy offered to make cupcakes for coffee hour. The Evangelism Committee (Jodi and John) will check into new member gift bags. Pr. Mandy is taking vacation May 29 - June 1, and Deacon Lyla will be on call. Pr. Mandy has been attending meetings for VBS which will take place at Augustana in July. Monday Study Group will continue to meet throughout the summer months as well as Brewed Theology. There will be an Ecumenical Youth event at East Sveadahl on June 25 from 7 pm to 10 pm. This event is for Youth from AES, First Presbyterian, and First Lutheran in grades 6 - 8.

Giving: Deanna presented the giving report. She has also been working on offering envelopes and which would be more cost effective-boxes or booklets.

AES Ministries: Did not meet this month.

Committee Reports:

Education - ROAR will be hosting a pool party at the St. James Pool on Thursday, Aug 7. This will be open to all AES youth and 10 years old and under will need to be accompanied by an adult. About half of the 30 tickets to the Mankato Moondogs baseball game have been sold. Friday, Oct 3 at 7 pm there will be an outdoor movie night at East Sveadahl. Looking towards the next year of ROAR, Tom would like to schedule a trip to The Way of the Cross in New Ulm. We discussed the feedback from the survey that the parents filled out. It was decided that when students are attending ROAR on Wed nights, we would serve a meal on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:15 pm. We also delivered the 75 birthday cake kits to the Food Shelf.

Evangelism/Social Ministry - Did not meet. Jodi and John will check with past Evangelism council members regarding the “new member” gift bag.

Worship/Music/Technology - Starting June 15 we will start utilizing the *All Creation Sings* hymnal. Terry and Heidi have asked past choir members to meet during coffee hour to practice songs from the new hymnal. Thank you, Terry and Heidi!

Finance - Did not meet.

Property/Cemetery - The gas meter was moved outside, and we are hopeful that cement where they dug the line will be replaced by the gas company.

Youth/Ministry - There were 8 to 10 youth who helped with Bingo at the nursing home in April. The residents enjoyed it so they will plan on hosting Bingo every other month at the home. Attendance was down for the Easter breakfast this year but made \$205. There was also a bowling outing on April 26. The Youth committee made a profit of \$580 for all the flowers they sold through Superfair for Mother's Day. Graduation Sunday will be May 18 and will be serving cupcakes during coffee hour. May 21 is the Baked Potato and Soup fundraiser. We are encouraging youth to participate in the Rail Run on June 19 during Railroad Days celebration. Project Campout is scheduled for Aug 9-10. Relay for Life is Sept 20 and Sandy is checking into a rootbeer float stand.

Old Business:

Church directory - Darrick will check with Kinzee to see if she is interested in this project.

New Business:

Cemetery - Jim Moody was informed that Mount Hope is now charging a \$200 perpetual care fee and this went into effect on April 15, 23.

Stewardship Meals - We would like each committee to get back to scheduling these.

Membership List - Our goal is to have an updated active membership list. Darrick suggested that we work on both the church directory and the active membership list together at the same time.

As there was no further business, motion by Lynn to adjourn and seconded by John.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

WELCA BOARD MEETING – April 24, 2025

Those present: Pr. Mandy, Nancy Kunkel, LeeAnn Nibbe and Jeanne Miest

WELCA has been asked to serve lunch for VBS kids July 21-24. There are specific items they would like. We will ask people to make some of the items and have some money from a Thrivent card and the Lenten supper that was designated for that purpose. They are planning on around 100 or so kids.

We have money in a “conference” fund that we will put in undesignated funds to possibly use toward a new refrigerator or new funeral and baptism banners. We will bring it to circles for approval. Conferences have not had good attendance in the past few years.

We will sell the greeting cards we have at coffee hour June 29th during coffee hour. We will try to sell what we have but not order more. Then that line item in our financial statement will be transferred to undesignated funds.

We will also use the money in the kitchen fund to purchase spoons and whatever else is needed in the kitchen. The remainder and more from undesignated will be used to pay for ½ of a new refrigerator and will ask the Augustana Men’s group to pay the other half.

Pastor Mandy told us of Baptisms and Weddings she has scheduled soon. We offered to help in any way needed.

Martha Circle is responsible for planting flowers this year. The Men’s group will pay for some of them and a Thrivent card will be applied for as well. A date of July 30th was suggested for Women’s Night Out at River’s Edge. More information to follow.

We will purchase flowers for the Altar in honor of Judy Berg and all the work she has done for WELCA.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Miest, temporary secretary

FLAG DAY - JUNE 14TH

On June 14th, the United States commemorates the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted a resolution saying that the flag of the United States would consist of “...13 stripes, alternate red and white, that the ‘Union’ be 13 stars, within a blue field...” The resolution did not describe the arrangement of the stars or allow for the changes that would be necessary as more states joined the Union. When Kentucky and Vermont became part of the country, a new resolution was passed in 1794, giving the flag 15 stars and 15 stripes.



Fortunately, Captain Samuel C. Reid of the U.S. Navy realized that the flag would soon be a very strange shape if a stripe were added for each state. He brought this to the attention of Congress and in 1818 a law was passed. It stated that the stripes on the U.S. flag would stay the same (13) to represent the 13 original colonies, and a new star would be added for each state as it joined the Union. The flag has changed many times since then.