

AES MINISTRIES
Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
February 2026 Newsletter

Lent 2026

“Wading in the Waters of Faith”

Join Pastor Mandy and Deacon Lyla this Lenten Season as they journey through Scripture looking at the significance of water and the role it plays in our faith story.

Enjoy a simplified worship service full of meaningful music (both new and familiar), beautiful liturgy, and exciting Bible stories as we make our way to the cross.

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 18

Ashes to Go – 12-1 pm corner of Armstrong and Weston
6:30 pm Communion Service at East



February 25

“Healing of Namaan” – Pastor Mandy
5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 Service at Augustana

March 4

“Water From a Rock” – Deacon Lyla
5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at East



March 11

“Jesus Calms the Storm” – Pastor Mandy
5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at Augustana

March 18

“Jesus Walks on Water” – Deacon Lyla
5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at East

March 25

“Woman at the Well” – Pastor Mandy
5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at Augustana

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

- Leo Buscaglia

AUGUSTANA - FEBRUARY**CIRCLES**

Feb. 3: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle – Fireside
 4: 9:00 am Martha Circle – Fireside
 17: 9:00 am Sewing Circle – Augustana

LECTORS

Feb. 1: Judy Thulien
 8: Deb Style
 15: Thomas Berg
 22: Leora Ask

MEMORIALS

None to report

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to furnish Altar Flowers for a particular Sunday, call the church office and your name will be placed on the schedule.

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Kunkel, Bonnie Reid, Leann Nibbe,
 Barb Price, Marilyn Hedlund

GREETERS

February 1: Greg & Judy Thulien
 8: Eugene Zarn
 15: John & Jeanne Miest
 22: Deanna Hoffman

USHERS

Lynn Watson, Jayne Anderson,
 Kristen Gertsema, Jim Harrington

NOISY OFFERING

February 22nd: Operation Concern

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Confirmation

A closed mouth gathers no feet!

AUGUSTANA - FEBRUARY**TRANSITIONS****Transfers**

None to report

RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.
 East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month,
 Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month,
 5th Sundays are split between the churches.
 To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.
 The February 22nd radio broadcast from Augustana
 is available for a sponsor.

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.

**BOLD WOMEN - THANK OFFERING**

Augustana's Bold Women's Sunday and Thank Offering will be held on Sunday, March 1st with a coffee hour after the service. A free will offering will be taken.

Blue Thank Offering envelopes will be available at church.

COMMUNION SERVERS

February 1: Jill Beckius & Lynn Watson
 8: Dean Swenstad & Jeff Price

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

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

The month of February: Available

EAST**TRANSITIONS:**

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

STEWARSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through December	\$92,090.04
Received through December	\$76,812.24
Behind through December	-\$15,277.80
Received in December	\$14,088.99

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the East Sveadahl Lutheran Church and the East Sveadahl Cemetery Association will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026, following the morning worship service. A potluck lunch will be served before the meeting.

You are asked to bring a dish to pass. Bread, dessert, and beverages will be provided.

*Happy Birthday -
Happy Baptism Date*

- 4 Elroy Menssen [3-1]
- 7 Bryon Christenson [3-11]
- 10 Mackenzie Blickem [3-15]
- Mayzie Falk [6-19]
- 12 Danon Anderson [3-13]
- Paula Wiederhoeft [5-3]
- 13 Cayden Huelsenbeck [7-21]
- 16 Shaun Shellum [6-1]
- 19 Anna Menssen [9-25]
- 20 Teresa Andrews [3-9]
- 22 Melissa Lindeman [12-16]
- 23 Debbie Anderson [4-19]
- 26 Shanya Johnson [4-15]
- 28 Elizabeth Coleman [4-8]
- 29 Tricia Anderson [3-1]



Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan.

EAST**RADIO BROADCASTS**

- Feb. 1: First Lutheran, St. James
- 8: East Sveadahl
- 15: First Lutheran, St. James
- 22: Augustana

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lorita Nasman and Bernie Jurgens

VISITING COMMITTEE

Cindy Torkelson and Lorita Nasman

ANNUAL MEETING

Group # 1
Julene Hoffman

USHERS

Wayne and Bernie Jurgens

LECTORS

- Feb. 1: Wes Beck
- 8: Leigh Rolshoven
- 15: Wayne Jurgens
- 23: Janet Bloomquist

RADIO SPONSORS

East is responsible for these broadcasts in 2026:

June 7, July 12, August 9, September 13,
October 11, November 8 & 29, December 13
If you would like to sponsor any of these broadcasts,
please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00 per Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE

We are grateful for your financial support of the East Sveadahl. To help us keep accurate records for church financial purposes, we kindly ask that if you contribute with cash to please place it in an envelope with your name on it.

This will help us to track our "CCC" numbers for end of the year bookkeeping.

Thank you!



AES FEBRUARY NEWS



PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE

The deadline for the March Newsletter has been moved from Friday, February 20th to Tuesday, February 17th. Thank you for getting your information to the secretaries by this date.

AES YOUTH SUPER BOWL APPETIZER FUNDRAISER

The Super Bowl Appetizer Fundraiser closes on Sunday, February 1st! You may pick up your appetizer on February 6th from 9:30-11 am, on February 7th from 8:30-11 am at Augustana Church, or if you make arrangements. Payment needs to be included when ordering. Order forms can be picked up in the Augustana office, or on the table next to the bulletins. Please fill out an order form and drop off the form either in the Augustana office or put your order form in an envelope labeled "Youth" and drop it off in the mailbox at the back of church. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Berg at (507) 381-8903. Each Appetizer costs \$12.

AUGUSTANA'S COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION - February 7th

Are you new to the Augustana council or a current member? Join Pastor Mandy on Saturday February 7th from 9am - 11am in the fellowship hall of Augustana for a planning session. Coffee and donuts will be provided! Come with your ideas for the year! We will be setting goals and dreaming together of what we would like to accomplish for 2026.

ECUMENICAL ASHES ON THE GO -- February 18th

Can't make the evening Ash Wednesday service, but still want to begin your Lenten journey with the imposition of ashes? Stop by "Ashes on the Go"! Local Pastors will be on the corner of Armstrong and Weston from 12-1pm on Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion and ashes. Stay in the comfort of your vehicle and receive the sacrament and imposition of ashes.

BOWLING/PIZZA PARTY GRADES 6-12 - February 22nd

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a Bowling/Pizza Party in Springfield on Sunday, February 22nd. Youth will be leaving Augustana Church at 3:00 PM and returning around 7:00 PM. The cost is \$10 per youth. Please sign up with Sandy Berg at 507-381-8903 by February 8th if you are interested in going. Each youth is also able to invite a friend; friends are also \$10 and must be signed up by February 8th.

BIBLE CAMP

AES Youth will be attending summer camp at Shetek Lutheran Ministries again in 2026! The theme will be "Wear Love. Colossians 3:12". Registration for grades 2-10 is open now through February 1st. To stay up to date with camp details and if interested in sending your child next year, please join our Heja NX-978438. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Anderson at 507-220-8236. Watch for Bless a Camper campaign to kick off in March to help our youth to camp.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save The Date! This year's ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be held June 15-18 from 1 – 4:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church for students in grades K – 5. Come to "Rainforest Falls" and explore the nature of God.

WINTER CANCELLATIONS

Winter weather is here! We ask you to please use your best judgement and common sense before venturing to church. Please check the sources listed below for cancellations before you leave home.

Church Closings:

Listen to 860 AM (KNUJ), Channel 12 KEYC-TV, check the AES web site at www.aeslutheran.org or our Facebook page for any snow emergency information. If school is cancelled or closed early, ROAR, and confirmation classes will also be cancelled.

THANK YOUS

To the East Sveadahl council and congregation,

Thank you so very much for the very generous Christmas gift. Your support, care, and friendship is so appreciated.

With a grateful heart, Susan

Thank you, everyone, who came to help me celebrate my 90th birthday!

Sam Christenson

East Sveadahl Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the generous \$100.00 gift you gave me to celebrate a “milestone of ministry” on the journey of faith I have been blessed to enjoy. Your financial gift went to sponsor 10 Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Shoeboxes to children to remind them of God’s Greatest Gift ... “For unto (us) is born this day into the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!” “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks for the ways you let God use you! In Christ’s love, Pastor Bob Springer

There’s an old Gospel song that has the words, “There will be showers of blessings” in it. Those words describe what I have experienced again this Christmas Season. In fact, it’s what I have been experiencing ever since I started ministry with you. Every congregation I served was kind and generous but you surpass them all. God keeps surprising me. He truly has saved “the best till last.” Thanks to each and everyone of you for letting me be a part of the journey we take together in Jesus’ Name. And a special thanks for gifts, kind words, and encouragement I have received this Christmas Season! Now on to 2026 to meet the many opportunities we have to “take Jesus out of the manger and bring Him with us as we move out into the world.”

Love and thanks, Lyla

Thank you to Augustana’s Council for the generous gift card to Plaza Jalisco for Christmas!! Your kindness and generosity are appreciated!!

Pastor Mandy

Financial Facts – December 2025

	December	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 17,453.60	\$ 154,629.12
Total Expenses	- \$ 12,035.46	\$ 190,228.12
	+ \$ 5,418.14	- \$ 35,599.00

Total Giving in December was very generous, as you can see the Giving to Expenses comparison was in the black! Even though we ended December in the black, our year to date is still greatly in the red.

The shared expenses percentage for 2026 has been calculated and Augustana will be responsible for 67% with East Sveadahl supporting 33% of these expenses. This is a change from 64% for Augustana and 36 % for East Sveadahl in 2024.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Augustana.

- Respectfully submitted – Lauren Moll - Treasurer

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

This year's Watonwan River Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 22nd at Augustana Lutheran Church. Delegates will be needed from both congregations.

ANNUAL MEETING - Water's Edge Ministries

The Green Lake Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th beginning at noon with a meal for all delegates immediately followed by the business meeting. Please notify the office of any allergies or dietary needs at 320-796-2181 or camp@gllm.org. We need you! Each congregation is encouraged to send two voting delegates. We will need a delegate. If you are willing to attend, please talk to a member of your Council.

WELLSPRING ACTIVITIES

COFFEE and CONVERSATION - Tuesday, February 4th - 3 pm – Prairie View Dining Room – “Staying Sunnyside Up in the Winter Months” by Kim Askeland Call 375-1276 to register.

AES JOINT COUNCIL did not meet in January 2026.

EAST SVEADAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 8, 2026

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, January 8 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Dale Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Lori Urevig, Pastor Mandy, and Susan Anderson. Absent: Sonja Coleman and Cindy Torkelson

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Mandy opened with prayers brought forth by the council.

The minutes from the December 11, 2025 meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

In the absence of Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary, Tom presented the report and Kris Suess, Treasurer, presented her report. A motion by Dale, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the reports as presented. Tom requested outstanding bills. Motion by Dale seconded by Wayne and approved to pay the bills.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Thank you to everyone who helped with the ROAR Christmas program and meal.
- Thank you to Sturm Funeral Home for doing a Blue Christmas Service. It was a very nice service and those who attended were very appreciative.
- Thank you to the East WELCA for the annual Christmas Party. The program and meal were wonderful, and we are very appreciative of the men and boys for serving.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Eve Service. It's always such an inspirational service.
- ROAR started up again on January 7 with great numbers.
- Sunday, February 1 is the annual meeting of the East Sveadahl Church following the service along with a potluck dinner.
- Deacon Lyla will be leading the service on Sunday, January 25 so Pastor Mandy can attend the Augustana annual meeting.

AES MEETING REPORT:

Lori presented the AES meeting highlights from the December 4, 2025 meeting. See complete report in the January newsletter.

(continued)

Susan Anderson thanked East Sveadahl for the Christmas gift.

Noisy Offerings were discussed with the following:

January Noisy Offering will go to the ROAR program.

February Noisy Offering will go to the Humane Society (this was going to be the December noisy offering but due to the weather the service was cancelled).

March Noisy Offering will go to the Food Shelf as March is the matching funds month.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- The condition of the church siding was discussed. Tom contacted the company who sided the church and because of the age of the siding, insurance will pay very little if anything to replace. We sided the church in 1989.
- The council finalized the 2026 East Sveadahl budget to be printed and presented at the annual meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2026, following the worship service and potluck dinner. A motion by Kris, seconded by Janet, and passed to approve the 2026 East Sveadahl Budget Proposal and the 2026 Resolutions to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 14 ,2026

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

Absent: Nicole Meyer

Stan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Dean shared devotions. Stan then asked if there were any prayer concerns, and Pastor Mandy started the meeting with prayer. Motion to approve the minutes from December was made by Darrick and seconded by Lynn.

Reports:

Treasurer: Lauren presented the treasurer's report. Jodi made a motion to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Lynn. We reviewed end-of-year expenses. Lauren noted which expenses were over budget and provided explanations for each. The proposed 2026 budget was reviewed. A motion to approve the 2026 budget, with an update to the pastoral expense to 67%, was made by Jodi and seconded by Lynn.

Giving: Deanna presented the giving report. Offering envelopes will be mailed out soon.

Pr. Mandy's Report: Pr. Mandy participated in the ecumenical Blue Christmas and it was decided that this service would continue. Both Christmas Eve services were well attended and she thanked everyone who helped. Deacon. Lyla will cover the January 25 service at East so Pr. Mandy can attend the annual meeting at Augustana. Pr. Mandy began planning Lenten services and Ashes on the Go on Ash Wednesday. Planning for VBS has also started with First Presbyterian Church hosting, with date and time to be determined.

AES Ministries: was not scheduled to meet this month.

Committee Reports:

Education - Discussion was held regarding the Christmas Program and possible changes for next year. ROAR students will be singing at Augustana on January 25 and on February 1 at East Sveadahl. Rather than holding a Valentine's Party, it was decided that each class will complete a craft.

Evangelism/Social Ministry - Did not meet this month. This committee would be interested in recruiting new members.

Worship/Music/Technology - Began planning for Lent. Deacon Lyla will also participate in two Lenten services.

Finance - Has been working on the proposed 2026 budget

(continued)

Property/Cemetery - There are light bulbs in the sanctuary that need to be replaced and plan to ask Mike Kulseth for assistance. Jeff Price has also contacted Laraway Roofing company regarding inspection and maintenance cost for the roof.

Youth/Ministry - Youth Committee served lunch after the Christmas program and raised \$280. Upcoming events: January 21 serving a pasta bar for ROAR supper. January 25 serving cinnamon rolls for the Annual meeting then playing Bingo at Pleasant View in the afternoon. February 8 Superbowl appetizers fundraiser. February 22 planning a bowling trip to New Ulm or Springfield. March 15 serving coffee hour and Bingo at Pleasant View. April 5 serving French toast bake at Easter breakfast starting at 7:30 am.

Old Business:

Stewardship – There will be Time and Talent sheets and Pledge cards ready for the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Logistics - Discussed the agenda items. There will be 4 church council positions open, and Kyla Schlomann has agreed to serve as the congregation member on AES Joint council. Sandy made a motion to recommend amending the church constitution to reduce the number of council members from 12 to 9 at the Annual Meeting, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried.

New Business:

Council Planning Session is scheduled February 7 from 9:00-11:00am. It is important that all council members attend as we will set clear goals and a vision through strategic planning for our church council.

2026 Lent schedule: Ash Wednesday will be at East Sveadahl. February 25 Youth committee will serve Lenten supper. Other dates that are open would be March 11 and March 25.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynn, John seconded. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius



Our campers in the front row:

Dacen Anderson (Left of Sign), Thomas Berg (next to Dacen), Abby Meyer (Above 2026)

AES MINISTRIES
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February 2026 Newsletter

Love is patient
love is tender-hearted;
love doesn't resent someone else doing well;
love doesn't try to impress;
love doesn't embarrass others or bully
love doesn't easily lose its cool or hold a grudge;
love doesn't enjoy finding things to criticize,
but is happy when everything is honest and genuine.
Love puts up with all kinds of difficulty;
love is open-minded and looks on the bright side;
love sticks at it and never admits defeat.
--I Corinthians 13:4-7

Good As New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures



AES MINISTRIES
Augustana and East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
Mandy France, Pastor Lyla Klee, Visitation Deacon