

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

February 2024 Newsletter



Pastor's Column

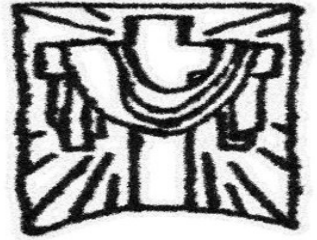
LENTEN SCHEDULE

"A CHILD LIKE FAITH"

Where does faith begin?

Why did Jesus emphasize, time and time again, the importance of children in our midst? Join us on Wednesdays throughout Lent, to hear from lay members their stories from childhood surrounding faith and how that informs their faith today.

We will be gathering around Holden Evening Prayer.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14 – 12:00 pm – Ecumenical Ashes on the Go at Augustana

Pastors from First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and AES will distribute communion and the imposition of ashes to you in your car. Just drive by!

6:30 pm – Communion Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes at Augustana

THE WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

February 21 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm Supper at Augustana – Youth serves.

6:30 pm Service – Jeff Price will be speaking.

February 28 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm Supper at East

6:30 pm Service – Erick Avila will be speaking.

March 6 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm Supper at Augustana – Augustana WELCA serves.

6:30 pm Service – Heather Missling will be speaking.

March 13 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm Supper at East

6:30 pm Service – Dale and Deb Anderson will be speaking.

March 20 – 5:00 – 6:30 pm Supper at Augustana

6:30 pm Service – Kinzee Miest will be speaking.

HOLY WEEK

March 24 – 10:00 am Joint Palm Sunday Worship Service at Augustana

Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt to follow the service.

March 28 – 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Augustana

March 29 – 12:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service at Augustana

6:30 pm Good Friday Worship Service at East

EASTER

March 31 – 8:30 am Easter Communion Worship Service at Augustana

10:00 am Easter Communion Worship Service at East

EAST

TRANSITIONS:

PRAYER CONCERNS: Cassian, Mike, Jamie, Marie, Joann, Darryl, Phyllis, Tim, Kathy, Erma, Bruce, Jana, Sam, Tom, Chloe, Orval, Wynette

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through December	\$82,070.00
Received through December	\$85,226.97
Ahead through December	+ \$ 3,156.97
Received in December	\$ 9,773.16

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the East Sveadahl Lutheran Church and the East Sveadahl Cemetery Association will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, following the morning worship service. A potluck lunch will be served before the meal.

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]
Kathy Christenson [4-21]
- 26 Shenya Johnson [4-15]
- 28 Elizabeth Coleman [4-8]
- 29 Tricia Anderson [3-1]



Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan.

EAST

RADIO BROADCASTS

Feb. 5: First Lutheran, St. James
11: East Sveadahl
18: First Lutheran, St. James
25: Augustana

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Teresa Andrews and Erma Griffith

VISITING COMMITTEE

Cindy Torkelson and Lorita Nasman

USHERS

Wayne and Bernie Jurgens

LECTORS

Feb. 4: Wayne Jurgens
11: Leigh Rolshoven
18: Dale Anderson
25: Sonja Coleman

RADIO SPONSORS

East is responsible for these broadcasts in 2024:
March 10 & 31, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14,
August 11, September 8 & 29, October 13,
November 10, December 8

If you would like to sponsor any of these broadcasts,
please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00 per Sunday.

CARDS FOR CASSIAN

Cassian and his family – Britta, Andrew, Soren, Cindy, Paul, Annika, Beth, Karen, and Howard – would appreciate cards of care and encouragement. Cassian Torkelson, 3523 5th St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

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

A hug is a great gift – one size fits all.
It can be given for any occasion and
it's easy to exchange.

AUGUSTANA - FEBRUARY**CIRCLES**

Feb. 6: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle – Fireside
 7: 9:00 am Martha Circle – Fireside
 20: 9:00 am Sewing Circle – Augustana

LECTORS

Feb. 4: Judy Thulien
 11: Kari Miest
 18: Leora Ask
 25: Jean Leopold

MEMORIALS

In memory of Bert Swenson
 \$20 – Stained Glass Window Fund
 \$25 – Undesignated
 \$20 – Music & Technology

In memory of Loved Ones
 \$300 – Cemetery

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, Deanna Hoffman, Bonnie Reid,
 LeeAnn Nibbe, Barb Price, Marilyn Hedlund

GREETERS

February 4: Greg & Judy Thulien
 11: Darrick & Kari Miest
 18: Ashley Johnson
 25: Jim & Jean Leopold

USHERS

Jim Anderson, Chris Bass, Chad Gronewold,
 Darrick Miest, Jackson Miest, Steve Walker,
 Doug Westman

NOISY OFFERING

February 25th: Food Shelf

A closed mouth gathers no feet!

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

Al & Barb Adams – Belgrade Methodist Church –
 North Mankato

Joe & Erica Garza Family – East Sveadahl

Funerals

A Celebration of Life was held for **Bert Swenson** on December 29, 2023, at Augustana. Bert passed away December 22, 2023.

A Celebration of Life was held for **Ardis Petterson** on January 13, 2023, at Sturm Chapel. Ardis passed away December 17, 2023.

May God's peace comfort their family and friends.

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 25th radio broadcast from Augustana
 is available for a sponsor.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

1. Electronically: visit church website and click on the "Secure Contributions" tab.
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 3rd with a brunch after the 10:30 am service.

A free will offering will be taken.
 Thank Offering envelopes will be available
 at church.



AES FEBRUARY NEWS



AES YOUTH SUPER BOWL APPETIZER FUNDRAISER

If you would like to help out the youth, we will be fundraising by selling appetizers through Feb. 1st. You may pick up your appetizer on Feb. 10th from 3 to 5 pm at Augustana Church, or on Feb. 11th after church, if you make arrangements. Payment needs to be included when ordering. Order forms can be picked up in the church office, or on the table next to the bulletins. Please fill out an order form and drop off the form either in the church office or put your order form in an envelope labeled youth and drop it off in the mailbox in the back of church. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Berg at (507) 381-8903. Each Appetizer will cost \$12.

YOUTH GATHERING BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm in the downstairs fireside room, I will be hosting a Bible Study for all the youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Plan for one hour! Snacks provided!

This is required if you plan to go on the trip.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents Night Out, an ELCA National Youth Gathering Fundraiser, will be held Friday, February 9th from 5-9 pm at Augustana.

Drop off your children ages 0-13 for a fun night of food, crafts, games, and movies! \$5/HR per child.

Sign up on the youth bulletin board located by the office at Augustana or on the sign-up sheet at East Sveadahl. Deadline to sign up is February 1st.

Youth and adults will be chaperoning this event.

"SOUP"-ER BOWL

The "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring will be on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th. In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need. Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on "Soup"-er Bowl Sunday. All the donations collected will go directly to our local Food Shelf. Bring a can of soup on "Soup"-er Bowl Sunday!

BIBLE CAMP

We have two exciting options for summer camp for our youth!!

Children ages 2nd - 4th grade have a new opportunity to attend a closer summer camp at Shetek, July 28 - 30th.

Children ages 5th grade through confirmation will continue to have the fun filled opportunity at Green Lake summer camp July 28th through August 1st.

Sign up deadline is Thursday, February 15th. More information to be posted on ROAR Heja.

Contact Trish A. at 507-220-8236 with any questions!

*When nothing goes right
... go left!*

CALLING ALL MUSICAL YOUTH!

Do you play a musical instrument? Are you a singer? I am looking for youth to share their musical talents during Sunday worship services. All skill levels are welcome! Reach out to me if you would be interested, and I will get you plugged into a Sunday Service. Thanks! - Pastor Mandy

THANK YOU

Dear friends, thank you, first and foremost, for giving me the privilege of being part of your staff “at my age.” This visitation has always been my passion and now to be able to do that as my only staff responsibility is like a dream. And now, more thanks to the generous Christmas gifts that I received from both congregations and thanks, too, to the many individuals who shared personal words of encouragement and love. Happy 2024 as together we go out into the world “to serve the Lord.” Love, Lyla

Thank you to Augustana for the generous gift cards to many good restaurants for Christmas. It was extremely kind! Thank you to East Sveadahl for the generous Christmas bonus! It was deeply appreciated. Pastor Mandy

A special thank you to East Sveadahl Church and Pastor Mandy for hosting our family and friends as we celebrated Gerry's life. Your prayers, support and help throughout that week was valuable to our family. Thank you for the beautiful service, and thank you to the members East Sveadahl and Augustana for the wonderful meal. Pat Buse and family

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

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 www.augustanachurch.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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

We appreciate your care and concern for family members and friends by placing them to our Prayer Concern list in our bulletin. We believe in the power of prayer! If you have added someone to our prayer concerns, please let us know when to remove their name if the need is no longer there.

KEEPING in TOUCH

Facebook: “Like” the Augustana/East Sveadahl Ministries Facebook page for pictures, updates, etc.

AES Ministries website: www.aeslutheran.org or www.augustanachurch.org

Address changes: Augustana office 375-4792, or Susan at East 507-317-5293

Weekly Bulletins: All bulletins are posted weekly on the AES Ministries website home page

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Join us every Monday morning at 10:00 am via Zoom! The link to join is found on our Website – just click and you are in, or type in the link information below. Please join us on Monday mornings for about 20 minutes. Come as you are, you will be welcomed!

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77502081644?pwd=NTdkeXB6TUlrazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>

MARCHING ON

As agreed upon in the AES partnership, worship times will once again switch in March. Beginning on

Sunday, March 3, 2024
9:00 am worship will be at East Sveadahl
10:30 am worship will be at Augustana

Financial Facts – December 2023		
	December	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 28,798.56	\$ 152,895.59
Total Expenses	- \$ 18,720.88	\$ 183,539.56
	+ \$ 10,077.68	- \$ 30,643.97

Total Giving in December was very generous, as you can see the Giving to Expenses comparison was in the black! However, the year-end comparison is still negative but a bit improved.

The QR code debuted this past Sunday in the church bulletin. This is another way you can support our church financially. You simply use your smart phone to scan this “code” and it will take you directly to our website – secure contributions page. Or you can scan the “code” with your phone from your TV or computer – and arrive at the same place. Thanks to those who helped set this up.

The shared expenses percentage for 2024 has been calculated and Augustana will be responsible for 66% with East Sveadahl supporting 34% of these expenses. This is a change from 74% for Augustana and 26 % for East Sveadahl in 2023. The items impacted primarily with this change are Pastor’s salary and benefit package and the Youth director salary.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Augustana.

- Respectfully submitted – Judy Thulien - Treasurer

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

This year’s Watonwan River Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 2:00 pm at First Lutheran Church, St. James. Delegates will be needed from both congregations.

GLLM ANNUAL MEETING

The Green Lake Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13th beginning at noon with a meal for all delegates immediately followed by the business meeting. We will need a delegate. If you are willing to attend, please talk to a member of your Council.

WELLSPRING ACTIVITIES

COFFEE and CONVERSATION - Thursday, February 29th -10:15 am - St. James Community Building – Boost Your Brain Power! Call 375-1276 to register. All are welcome.

AES JOINT COUNCIL did not meet in January 2024.

EAST SVEADAHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 11, 2024

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, January 11 at 7 pm at East Sveadahl. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Wayne Jurgens, Cindy Torkelson, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Dana Avila & Lori Urevig

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

Pastor Mandy opened with prayer.

The December 14, 2023 minutes stand approved as written in the newsletter.

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

Tom presented the bills. The Aadland Pipe Organ Co., Art Aadland, has been working on repairs for the church organ. As of this meeting \$3,585.00 is the amount owed. A new power supply system needs to be ordered and installed also. A motion by Cindy, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve paying of bills.

Pastor Mandy presented her report:

- December was busy with funerals and Christmas services. Pastor Mandy thanked everyone who helped with the December 31 service in her absence because of illness.
- There are 14 youth and 4 counselors signed up to attend the National Youth Gathering July 16-20. February 7 Pastor Mandy will start a bible study for the youth attending the conference in preparation for the event.
- There will be an Ecumenical on-the-go ashes on Ash Wednesday outside Augustana from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. with AES, First Presbyterian, and First Lutheran taking part. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- A couple of new ideas emerged from a pastoral meeting Pastor Mandy attended – 1) a pulpit swap and 2) a worship service at the Watonwan County Fair. Watch for further details.

No AES meeting was held in January.

Old Business:

- A temporary roof to cover our outside furnace vent has been done by Tom Suess.

New Business:

- A motion by Kris, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve a \$10 increase per time to the organist salary.
- The council finalized the 2024 East Sveadahl Budget to be presented at the annual meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2024 following the worship service and potluck dinner. A motion by Janet, seconded by Cindy, and passed to approved the 2024 East Sveadahl Budget Proposal and 2024 Resolutions to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 4th.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next church council meeting will be February 8, 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 10, 2024

Present-Lynn Watson, Deanna Hoffman, Sandy Berg, Judy Thulien, Jeff Price, Lyle Anderson, Mark Kulseth, Darrick Miest, Stan Kunkel, Kirsten Freitag, Dean Swenstad, Pastor Mandy, Jill Beckius

Absent: Lisa Carlson, Kristi Zellmann

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and Dean shared devotions.

The secretary's report from the December meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as printed by Lynn and seconded by Jeff.

Judy presented the Treasurer's report. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lynn and seconded by Jeff.

Discussion regarding the Budget Summary 2023/Proposed Budget 2024; Will keep line item under

(continued)

Property: Utilities the same in 2024 at \$17,000. Motion was made by Lynn to rename the Building/roof fund under Designated Memorial savings balance on the Consolidated Fund Report to Building/insurance deductible fund. Seconded by Jeff. Motion was by Lyle to update the building insurance to \$20,000 deductible with an approximate annual savings of \$2,800. Seconded by Dean. Motion was made by Sandy to transfer the Mission Investment funds that will mature on 6/13/24 to the Building/insurance deductible fund. Seconded by Stan. Motion to approve proposed 2024 budget by Lynn and seconded by Jeff with 1 opposed. (Judy will email final copy)

Missionary Support will remain at \$750.

Deanna presented the Offering report.

Pastor Mandy's report

December was a busy month with Advent and Christmas services along with 3 funerals; two were held at East Sveadahl and one at Augustana. Looking forward to Lent planning Ashes on the Go on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, along with First Presbyterian and First Lutheran. Planning for Lent and asking someone from the congregation to share their faith experience. Will hold a prayer group meeting on January 24th at noon and 7 pm. Starting to plan meetings for the 14 youth and 4 adults that will be attending the National Youth Gathering. The following Lenten Wednesdays will be at Augustana February 14th, 21st, March 6th and 20th. Palm Sunday March 24th will be a joint service at Augustana. Holy Week: Maundy Thursday March 28th at Augustana. Easter Sunday March 31st 8 am at Augustana

AES did not meet

Committee Reports

Education

ROAR-Plan to teach 4th-6th grade more in-depth on the books of the Bible while the younger students will work on a craft project. Students have been learning the Lord's Prayer and hoping to plan on leading the congregation during a service. Will continue with set time for music during ROAR on Wednesdays. ROAR students will sing on April 28th at East Sveadahl and on March 24th Palm Sunday joint service at Augustana. Lunch will be served after the service and kids can join in on an indoor Easter Egg hunt again. Registration will be sent out soon. VBS is set for July 8-11 at First Lutheran church from 8:30 to 11:30. This will again be with AES, Presbyterian, and First Lutheran. The last Wednesday for ROAR will be April 24th.

Evangelism/Social Ministry did not meet.

Worship, Music, and Technology did not meet.

Finance Committee worked on proposed budget.

Property/Cemetery moved the church pew and addressed the water issue. Will reset the timer on the sign out front

Youth Ministry

January snow tubing was canceled. Jan. 28th Annual Meeting will be serving a meal after the meeting. The February Super Bowl appetizer fundraiser will start selling in January with the cut-off date of Feb 1st. They will be prepared on Feb 10th and can pick Sunday, Feb 11th. Parent's Night Out Feb 9th from 5 to 9 pm. Sign up to drop off kids. There will be games and a meal for the kids. Youth group will continue to serve coffee hour the 4th Sunday of the month. Looking for a date to go bowling in Springfield sometime in Feb. Youth will be serving supper during Lent on Feb 21st. Will also serve lunch on Palm Sunday and Easter morning breakfast. Will sell flowers again for Mother's Day in May. May 19th will be graduation Sunday. Sandy will purchase airline tickets soon for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Discussion regarding the camp out for one night this year.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting set for Jan 28, 2024

Nominating Committee

Other - Treasurer, Judy Thulien - June 30, 2024

New Business:

Building insurance - discussed as part of the 2024 budget

Stewardship/QR code will be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

(continued)

Next Council Meeting will be Feb 13 at 7 pm with Committee meetings at 6 pm
We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

AUGUSTANA WELCA BOARD MINUTES – January 8, 2024

Present: Judy Berg, Nancy Kunkel, Becky Cobb and Jeanne Miest

Judy opened with devotions.

The secretary's report was approved, and we discussed the November and December treasurer's report. St. Lucia proceeds from the breakfast was \$1,560 which will be sent to the Synod. The \$1,804 proceeds from the bake sale will be distributed to the following with circle approval: Watonwan Co. Food shelf, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Lutheran World Relief (for postage to send quilts to those in need), Mumbai, Wellspring, to purchase yarn for prayer shawls, and 10% back to St. Lucia expenses for next year.

Pr. Mandy told us about "The Wonder Bible" which is a small device that is an audio version of the Bible that she would bring to those who would like the Bible read to them. We decided to use some of the St. Lucia bake sale money to purchase some to be loaned out to shut ins and others.

This Sunday, January 14th will be the "Baby shower for Jesus" when, during coffee hour we will ask people to bring newborn baby items to be given to Human Services Welcome baby project. A special coffee hour offering will be taken and given to the Augustana general fund. We will ask circle members to bring breakfast pastries and will serve fruit and juice as well.

March 3rd is Bold Women's Sunday. Women will serve as ushers, singers, speakers, etc. The quilts that have been made as well as prayer shawls will be displayed on pews. We will serve brunch during coffee hour that day.

WELCA will serve the Lenten meal on March 6th. Grilled cheese and soup are the plan. We will ask someone to apply for a Thrivent card to cover expenses.

We will write out and address Valentines Cards during the February meeting which will be 10:45 am February 12th in the Fireside room.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Miest, secretary pro tem

EPIPHANY PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

~ Like Christmas, the Epiphany of Our Lord, the Baptism of Our Lord, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord

are feast days of Jesus. The color for feast days is white, the color of divinity, purity, and joy. The Sundays after the Epiphany focus on the growth of Jesus' ministry, and the color green is used to symbolize that growth.

~ On the First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. The Father sent Jesus to bear the sins of the world. So Jesus steps down into baptismal waters so that He can soak up the sins of the world: He is baptized into our sins so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

~ The Feast of the Transfiguration, celebrated on the last Sunday in the Epiphany season, is a significant and uniquely Lutheran contribution to the Christian calendar. This festival commemorates the moment of the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus' disciples glimpse their Lord in divine splendor, seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Jesus proclaims to His disciples, then and now, that He is the long-awaited one who has come to die for the sins of the world and be raised again in glory.

~ The Transfiguration of Our Lord is the last Sunday before Lent. Because we give up singing *Alleluia* during Lent, at the close of the service on Transfiguration we say farewell to *Alleluia*.