

# AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

## APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



### *PASTOR'S COLUMN*

### *HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE*

### *PALM SUNDAY*

March 29th – 10:00 am Joint Worship Service at Augustana

Followed by lunch and Easter egg hunt

Lunch: Cinnamon Rolls, Juice & Coffee



### *MAUNDY THURSDAY*

April 2 – 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Augustana

First Communion Service



### *GOOD FRIDAY*

April 3 – 6:30 pm Good Friday Service at East



### *EASTER SUNDAY - RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD*

April 5

7:00 am French Toast Bake & Fruit Slush Cups at Augustana

8:00 am Easter Communion Service at Augustana

9:00 am Easter Breakfast at East

10:00 am Easter Communion Service at East



## **AUGUSTANA - April**

### **CIRCLES**

April 1: 9:00 am – Martha Circle – Fireside  
 6: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle – Fireside  
 21: 9:00 am – Sewing Circle

### **USHERS**

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

### **LECTORS**

April 2: Kirsten Freitag  
 5: Terry Engel  
 12: Judy Thulien  
 19: Jodi Coleman  
 26: Thomas Berg

### **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, Melanie Fredin, Tami Larson

### **MEMORIALS**

In memory of Suzann Olson  
 \$50.00 – Undesignated Memorial Fund

In memory of Lennart Warling  
 \$50.00 – Stained Glass Windows

### **GREETERS**

April 2: Stan & Nancy Kunkel  
 5: Lisa Carlson  
 12: Greg & Judy Thulien  
 19: Deanna Hoffman  
 26: Bill & Kirsten Freitag

### **NOISY OFFERING**

April 27

## **AUGUSTANA - April**

### **TRANSITIONS**

#### **Deaths**

Judy Berg passed away on March 8, 2026.

May God's peace comfort her family and friends.

### **MISSIONARY SPONSORS**

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

### **RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM**

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.

East sponsors the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month,  
 and two of the four 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of 2026.

Augustana sponsors the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month,  
 and two of the four 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of 2026.

To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

April 26<sup>th</sup>: 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](http://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.



### **Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed on  
 Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in observance of Easter,  
 Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**

April 26th

**EAST**

**RADIO BROADCASTS**

April 5: First Lutheran, St. James  
 12: Joint Service - Augustana  
 19: First Lutheran, St. James  
 26: East Sveadahl

**VISITING COMMITTEE**

Teresa Andrews and Janet Bloomquist

**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Lisa Shellum and Lori Urevig

**LECTORS**

April 3: Tom Anderson  
 5: Janet Bloomquist  
 12: Augustana  
 19: Dale Anderson  
 26: Wayne Jurgens

**NOISY OFFERING**

April, May, June – Bless a Camper

*Happy Birthday -  
 Happy Baptism Date*

- 2 Dana Avila
- 3 Bernadine Jurgens [6-26]  
 April Wolner-Reed [6-10]
- 4 Dustin Menssen [6-11]
- 5 George Nasman [5-30]  
 Faith Tietz [7-26]
- 7 DeLores Kleinow [4-30]
- 9 Erica Garza [9-10]
- 10 Wayne Jurgens [5-8]
- 12 Shandra Moll [9-19]
- 14 Charlotte Johnson [5-10]
- 18 Cody Falk [6-18]
- 19 Stella Christenson [6-4]  
 Leigh Rolshoven [6-16]  
 Lynne Rolshoven [6-16]
- 23 Rory Pietsch  
 Sylvie Schmidt [4-23]
- 26 Elijah Yash France [9-11]
- 28 Jill Essler [6-11]

.....  
**In everything give thanks!**

**EAST**

**TRANSITIONS**

Receiving their First Communion on April 2 were  
**Daxtyn Anderson, Brogan Eineke,  
 Gavin Menssen, and Dakota Menssen.**

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

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:**

Needed through February	\$13,573.34
Received through February	6,916.54
Ahead through February	- \$ 6,656.80
Received in February	\$ 3,469.37

**USHERS**

Dale and Deb Anderson

**RADIO SPONSORS**

Broadcasts sponsored by East:

- April 26: Phyllis Jurgens
- May 10: Kris Sues
- May 31:
- June 14:

If you would like to sponsor any of the broadcasts for 2026, please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00.

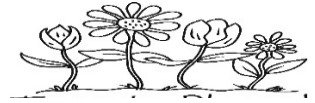
**EASTER LILIES**

Thank you to the following for the Easter Lilies:

- Herbert Noren Family
- Paul and Cindy Torkelson
- Janet Bloomquist and Family
- Steve and Charlotte Johnson
- Kris and Tom Sues
- Dale and Debbie Anderson
- Nick Griffith
- Diane Hage and Family
- Angie and Lynette Noren and Families
- Julene Hoffman and Jimmy Anderson
- Lisa Shellum, Lori Urevig and Families
- Bryon Christenson and Family
- Francey Anderson and Family
- Ken and Evonne Moll
- Tom and Cathy Anderson
- Lee and Susie Carlson



# AES APRIL NEWS



## + *TIMES SWITCH - APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>*

Worship times will change beginning Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**East Sveadahl – 9:00 am    Augustana – 10:30 am**

## + *PR. MANDY GONE*

Pastor Mandy will be gone Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor Mandy will be on vacation Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Lyla Klee will be on call and be our pulpit supply for Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

## + *SAVE THE DATES - JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>*

Vacation Bible School will be held June 15-18 at First Presbyterian from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Children from AES Ministries, First Presbyterian, and First Lutheran are invited to attend. Age requirements: those entering kindergarten through those who have completed 5th grade. Mark your June calendar now!

## + *AES YOUTH HANGING BASKET FUNDRAISER*

Support the AES Youth by purchasing a beautiful hanging basket for just **\$25.00!** Start ordering Baskets from **April 1<sup>st</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Baskets will be available for pickup around the week of **Mother's Day (May 5th)** at Superfair Foods.

Order forms can be found at each church entrance and in the church office. **All orders must be completed in full with payment enclosed.** Once your order is received, you will be able to pick up your receipt on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Augustana from 9am - 11am. East receipts will be at East on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am.

Return completed forms with payment to the church office, the mailbox behind Augustana, or give them to **Sandy Berg**. If you have any questions, please contact **Sandy Berg at (507) 381-8903**. Thank you for supporting AES Youth

## + *THANK YOU*

Ladies, once again Thank You for the beautiful quilts. Thanks for thinking of us in Public Health and the families we serve.  
Warm Regards, Watonwan County Public Health.

Once again, we at Public Health are grateful for thinking of us and sharing with us your “Baby Shower for Jesus.” So many needed items of diapers, wipes, blankets, onesies, outfits, bibs, sleepers and books to share with our families. Such a wonderful idea to help so many. Thank you and blessings to each of you with the mission work you do!  
Warm regards, Watonwan County Public Health.

Dear Augustana Church members, On behalf of the Hope Lives Here Committee, we would like to thank you for remembering us with your very generous donation. Your check will go a long way in helping Watonwan County Family Members, who are dealing with everything cancer throws at them. Simply by lifting even a small financial burden off their shoulders, such as gas money, greatly helps. Thank you for being part of that solution. Watonwan County has amazing people who reside here. Thank you all for being part of that family.

Sincerely, Shirley Anderson

**AUGUSTANA FINANCIAL FACTS – February 2026**

	February	YTD
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$10,746.25</b>	<b>\$33,772.47</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>- 12,157.80</b>	<b>- 32,483.34</b>
	<b>- \$ 1,411.55</b>	<b>+ \$ 1,289.13</b>

Respectfully submitted, Lauren Moll, Treasurer

***COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS***

***+ HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET - April 14<sup>th</sup>***

The Annual Meeting of the Watonwan County Historical Society is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, St. James. The guest speaker Dennis Stade will present a program about our area’s military history.

Tickets are \$20.00; may be purchased from any board member (Tom Anderson, James Nasman, or Susan Anderson, Darrell Ask), or at the Historical Society. No tickets will be sold at the door. No tickets will be sold after **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**.

***+ NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - April 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>***

Celebrating 50 years! National Volunteer Week is Sunday-Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. National Volunteer Week was established by a Proclamation by President Richard Nixon in 1974 to promote volunteerism and honor those for dedicating their time to volunteering. With the help of thankless volunteers, our community is a far better place because of their efforts. No matter what they do, volunteers help to improve life for students, patients, senior citizens, those in need, and everyone in between.

Thank you to all who give of your time and talents in service to our Lord. As it says in I Peter 4:10, “Each one as a good manager of God’s gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he or she has received from God”. May you be blessed in the volunteer work you do in the church and in the community. Have you thanked a volunteer lately?

***+ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES***

The Foodshelf is looking for help. Interested? Contact Neighborhood Pantry. Thank you!

***+ GACAC - April 18<sup>th</sup>***

The Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations annual business meeting is Saturday, April 18, 2026.

***+ WELLSPRING - April 29<sup>th</sup>***

The next Coffee & Conversation is Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 am in the Watonwan County Library Meeting Room. The topic is *Trends in Fraud & Identity Theft: Artificial Intelligence*. Presented by Jay Haapala from AARP MN. Please call 507-375-1276 to register.

## AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 5, 2026

Members present: Tom Anderson, Heidi Engel, James Joosten, Wayne Jurgens, Lynn Rolshoven, Kyla Schlomann, Pr. Mandy, and Susan Anderson

Members absent: Sandy Berg, Lori Urevig

Visitors present: Terry Engel

Pr. Mandy opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed and introduced the new members of the Joint Council. Joining the Council are James Joosten, Wayne Jurgens, Lynn Rolshoven, and Kyla Schlomann.

No member concerns were presented.

Prayer concerns were shared, and Pr. Mandy led us in prayer.

The election of officers was held. Due to a conflict of interest, Heidi Engel stepped down as Chairman of the Joint Council. A motion was made by Tom Anderson to elect Kyla Schlomann to the chairman position, seconded by Heidi, motion carried. A motion was made by Wayne Jurgens to elect Tom Anderson as vice-chairman, seconded by Lynne Rolshoven, motion carried.

Tom made a motion to accept the December minutes. Lynne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

- ~ The feedback from the Christmas Eve services was positive. Many find the 6:00 pm service time challenging.
- ~ The *All Creation Sings* hymnal has been well received. She extends a thank you to all those who take the time to learn and lead the new hymns. The congregations are enjoying the new hymns.
- ~ She has received positive feedback about the Wednesday Lenten services. Having ROAR at the same time worship has enabled ROAR parents to attend the services. The Ash Wednesday service was cancelled due to weather for the third year.
- ~ ROAR students will sing at the Palm Sunday service at Augustana March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- ~ She will be taking vacation and will be unavailable April 28 - May 10. Deacon Lyla will lead worship May 3 and 10 and be on call.
- ~ Graduation Recognition will be May 17<sup>th</sup> at both churches. Due to time restrictions, she isn't able to attend the celebration during coffee hour at Augustana.
- ~ During Lent, Brewed Theology is on hold. The Study Group continues to meet Mondays at East.
- ~ Confirmation students and their mentors are using her guided material for study during Lent.
- ~ A First Communion class will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> at Augustana. Their first communion will be Maundy Thursday at Augustana.
- ~ She is excited about the ecumenical relationship that continues to develop with First Lutheran and First Presbyterian. Their next event - worship, service, games - is March 22<sup>nd</sup> at First Lutheran for 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders. VBS is June 15-18, 1-4 pm at First Presbyterian for kindergarteners – fifth graders. Registration will be out soon.
- ~ She has joined "Continuous Growth Pathways" through Gustavus Adolphus College. These continuing education classes are held with other clergy throughout the year on a variety of topics.
- ~ She is working on plans for the July 2027 National Youth Gathering which will be held in Minneapolis. The Youth Committee has approved a monetary amount each participant will receive. Additional fund raisers will need to be held. Those in 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade attend the Gathering.
- ~ Sabbatical Leave, per ELCA guidelines, is available to pastors after five years of continuous service at a parish. The AES Council granted her this leave at the March 18, 2025 meeting. She is taking her sabbatical July 11<sup>th</sup> (after the Youth Gathering) through October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2027. She is working on getting a grant that would provide funds for her and AES Ministries to use. If she isn't awarded a grant, she will still go on sabbatical. Creative ways to use the grant or how to proceed if the grant isn't awarded were discussed. Concrete plans will be in place for the months when she is gone.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- ~ At the December meeting, stewardship was discussed. It is evident that the budgets of both churches aren't being met. Discussion was held on joint fund raising. It was decided to serve a community Spaghetti Supper in September. Kyla, James, and Lynne will proceed with planning.

(continued)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ~ Discussion was held on a proposition that Vacation Bible School could also be held as East Sveadahl.
- ~ The Responsibilities of the AES Ministries Joint Council as found in the AES Ministries Partnership Agreement was reviewed. It is important that the AES Council be present and involved in the life of Augustana and East.
- ~ The Watonwan River Conference (our conference) is in partnership with the Shiyane Circuit in South Africa. At our assembly on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was voted to donate \$1000 of our Conference funds to help with the restoration of Umphumulo Seminary. It is hoped that an additional \$1000 can be raised from individual, church, or group donations to help build a fence around the Seminary.
- ~ Bishop Dee Pederson will come to AES Ministries on Sunday, April 12, 2026. Pr. Mandy is proposing that a joint worship service be held at Augustana that Sunday. Kyla made a motion that a Joint Worship Service be held at Augustana on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am followed by a coffee hour. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bishop Dee will give the sermon during the worship service and share her South African presentation during the coffee hour. Heidi and Lynne<sup>19</sup> will oversee the coffee hour.
- ~ The AES Council will meet in 2026 in June (Augustana), September (East), December (Augustana), and in March of 2027 (East). Additional meetings will be called if needed.  
The next AES Council meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Augustana.  
Tom made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Heidi. Motion passed.  
The meeting ended at 8:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

**EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – March 12, 2026**

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Dale Anderson, Lori Urevig, Julene Hoffman, Sonja Coleman, Susan Anderson and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: None

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order, and Pastor Mandy opened with prayers that were brought forth by the council.

Janet presented the council minutes for the February 12, 2026 meeting. A motion by Dale, seconded by Julene, and passed to approve the minutes as printed in the February newsletter.

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

Tom asked for any outstanding bills of which there were none.

**PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:**

- The First Communion class is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 with six youth participating.
- Pastor Mandy has been preparing for the National Youth Gathering in 2027 which will be held in Minneapolis. AES has 21 eligible youth.
- Pastor Mandy has spent a lot of pastoral care time with AES members entering end-of-life time.
- Good Friday service is at East Sveadahl and East has the 10 a.m. Easter morning service. Coffee and rolls will be served at 9 a.m. prior to the Easter service.

Reminder...Noisy offerings for April, May and June will go to the Campership Fund.

Sunday, April 12 will be a joint service at Augustana with the Bishop from our Southwest Synod giving a presentation on her trip to South Africa visiting our companion church synod there. Joint service will be at 9 a.m. followed by coffee and rolls and the presentation.

**AES REPORT:**

The AES council meeting was held March 5 at East. Kyla Schломann was elected president for 2026. See complete minutes in the newsletter.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Lenten services are going well.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A discussion took place on updating the church rental rates and rules and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

(continued)

As there was no further business, a motion by Janet seconded by Lori and passed to adjourn.  
The next church council meeting will be April 9, 2026. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

### **AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – March 11, 2026**

Present: Pastor Mandy, Sandy Berg, Jodi Coleman, John Coleman, Nick Dannhoff, Terry Engel, James Joosten, Darrick Miest, Nicole Meyer, Bob Moll, Jill Beckius

Absent: Andy Freitag

Jane Wolle from Neighborhood Pantry (formerly known as the Watonwan County Food Shelf) joined the council meeting. She requested 3-4 volunteers to help cover open hours on the third Thursday of every month from 4-6 pm. The job entails stocking shelves and requires some physical ability to lift boxes. Nicole offered to set up a sign-up sheet, which will be posted on the board in the social hall.

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm

Pastor Mandy asked for prayer concerns and opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Sandy and seconded by Bob.

Motion carried.

#### **Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Lauren presented the Treasurer's Report, noting it was a normal month with typical expenditures. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Darrick and seconded by Jodi. The motion carried.

**Pastor Mandy's report:** There was one funeral in January, one funeral in February at First Presbyterian Church and another in March. There will also be a private graveside service in May. Pastoral care has been especially heavy, with end-of-life care and illnesses with hospitalizations. Brewed Theology has not been taking place during Lent. Pastor Mandy reported receiving positive feedback regarding the Wednesday night Lenten services. She also organized mentors and confirmation curriculum for the Lenten season. A First Communion class will be held on March 21, and plans for Holy Week are in place. An informational meeting for the National Youth Gathering is scheduled for Sunday at 6:30 pm. Pastor Mandy is also seeking delegates to attend the SW MN Synod Assembly on June 5-6. Jodi volunteered to attend. The plan is to nominate delegates during the annual meeting.

**AES Ministries:** It was voted and approved that Kyla Schломann will serve as chair for 2026. Heidi Engel will remain on the Joint Council. A Joint Worship service will be held on April 12 at 9 am at Augustana. Bishop Dee Pederson will be visiting. Following worship, during coffee hour, there will be a presentation detailing her work with the South African partnership. Pastor Mandy's sabbatical was voted on and approved by AES. She plans to begin her sabbatical following the National Youth Gathering in July 2027 and returning October 11, 2027. Pastor Mandy also applied for a grant to be used during her sabbatical and expects to hear back in June or July 2026.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Education Report:** The committee worked on details for Palm Sunday and the Easter Egg hunt. Currently 42 students are registered. It was decided that cinnamon rolls, juice, and coffee will be served after the Joint service at 10 am. ROAR students will also be singing during the service. The group discussed lessons for April 8<sup>th</sup>, and the End-of-the-year party is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>. For the End-of-the-year celebration, the Men's Group will grill hamburgers and hot dogs, and Dilly bars will be served for a treat. The event will also include games and a craft activity. Registration for VBS will open soon. VBS will be hosted by First Presbyterian from June 15-18, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm each day. A short program will be held that Thursday afternoon at 4:00 pm.

**Evangelism Committee Report:** The committee is working on an updated church member list. The group set a goal of completing an active member list by Memorial Day. They also discussed sending birthday cards and invitations to special events. The committee has been working on plans for a church service in Memorial Park, tentatively scheduled for either August 23 or August 30. The cost to rent the shelter is \$30, along with a \$150 cash damage deposit. The plan would be to serve cookies and coffee following the service. Sandy offered to pay the \$30 rental fee, and Nicole offered to provide the \$150 cash deposit, which would be refunded afterward.

**Worship, Music and Technology:** A piece of equipment had malfunctioned, but new equipment was received at the same cost to repair the old equipment. The church is now streaming services on YouTube. Search for "Augustana Lutheran Church St. James MN" to view the livestreams.

*(continued)*

**Finance Committee Report:** The committee decided to remove the giving report from the weekly bulletin. Going forward, quarterly meetings during coffee hour will be held to review finances with the congregation. The group suggested using Thrivent Action Cards to fund specific projects. They are also looking at setting up a Venmo or PayPal account, which would allow the use of a QR code for donations.

**Property Committee:** The committee has been reviewing updates to AED devices and fire extinguishers. Repairs on the snowblower and door buzzer were completed. St. James Electric has been working on converting the 7-day Candle in the sanctuary to an LED light. They also replaced a number of light bulbs. It appears that the A-frame roof project over the education wing will be very expensive. The committee will look into the cost of installing a new rubber membrane roof.

**Youth Committee:** Six students attended the recent bowling outing. The committee reported receiving \$279 from serving the Lenten meal. On March 8, eight students helped with bingo at Pleasant View. On March 15, they are planning breakfast and bingo after the 9:00 am church service, serving “build your own breakfast sandwiches” and yogurt parfaits. A free-will donation will be requested for the meal and bingo will cost \$5 for 5 games. This event may be rescheduled to March 22 due to the weather. The Easter breakfast is scheduled for April 5, serving a French toast bake and fruit slush cups starting at 7 am. The committee will again sell flowers for Mother’s Day, with order forms available by April 1, sales ending May 1 and receipt pickup by May 3. Graduation Sunday is scheduled for May 17. Pastor Mandy has graduate students at both churches this year. The committee is also planning a fundraiser for Father’s Day, selling beef stick bouquets.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report

**New Business:**

**Noisy offering:** It was decided that a noisy offering will be held on the last Sunday of each month. The Evangelism Committee will set up a schedule of recipients for the year.

**Church Security:** Discussion was held regarding how best to proceed with reopening the church to the public. This was tabled for now.

**Additional help for the Financial Secretary:** Sandy made a motion to open discussions with Kristen Gertsema and Joy Sing to see if they are interested in assisting the financial secretary, seconded by Bob.

We closed the meeting with the Lord’s prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

## WELCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - February 26, 2026

Present were, Pastor Mandy, LeeAnn Nibbe – treasurer, Nancy Kunkel and Jeanne Miest as circle representatives.

WELCA is taking part in the service for Bold Women’s Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will display quilts and prayer shawls, usher, and Judy Thulien will give a little talk about “Opportunities for Bold Women”. We will also serve coffee hour. The proceeds from coffee hour and the Thank offering will go to World Hunger.

We decided on the distribution of St. Lucia money. The breakfast money (\$1465.00) will be divided. Half to ELCA Southwest Synod (this will cover the first installment of Augustana’s commitment to the synod) and the other ½ to Augustana to cover Missionary and Radio sponsorships as needed.

The Bake Shoppe money (which includes card sales balance of \$536.80 = \$2,251.55) will be divided as follows: \$251.55 leave in St. Lucia fund for expenses next year.

\$300 Mumbai Mission	\$300 Beyond the Yellow Ribbon	\$300 Camperships	\$300 Wellspring
\$300 Watonwan Cares	\$300 Neighborhood Pantry	\$100 AES Youth	\$100 ROAR

This distribution list will be sent to Circle members for approval.

We also sent ½ of the offering collected from circles in 2025 to SW Synod (\$324.50) and the other ½ to Augustana building fund (\$324.50) to be used toward switching the eternal light in the Sanctuary to electric instead of the expensive candles.

WELCA will be serving the Lenten meal on March 25<sup>th</sup>. We will serve chicken noodle soup, chili, ham sandwiches and cookies. We will need 6 workers. LeeAnn will apply for a Thrivent card, Jeanne will order/buy supplies and make the chili.

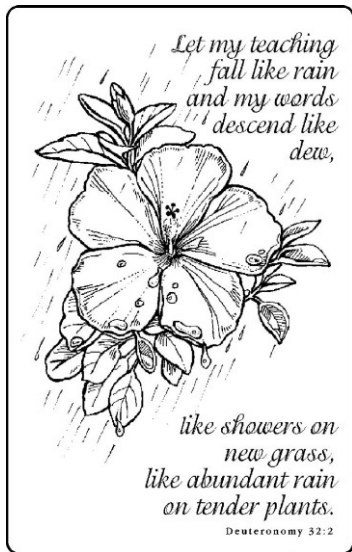
Pastor Mandy thanked WELCA on behalf of the Southwest Synod that met here February 22<sup>nd</sup> for the coffee and bars. They were much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Miest, temporary secretary

AES Ministries  
P.O. Box 151  
St. James, Minnesota 56081  
Telephone: 507-375-4792

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## AES MINISTRIES

April 2026 Newsletter

*Mandy Thursday - April 2 6:30 pm Communion Service, Augustana  
First Communion*

*Good Friday - April 3 6:30 pm Worship Service, East*

*Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday - April 5*

*7:00 am Easter Breakfast, Augustana*

*8:00 am Communion Worship, Augustana*

*9:00 am Rolls and Beverages, East*

*10:00 am Communion Worship, East*



*Mandy France, Pastor*

*Lyba Klee, Visitation Deacon*