

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Monday, September 21

5:00 – 8:00 pm

St. James Eagles Club

AES Ministries (Augustana and East Sveadahl) invite you to join us for our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Monday, September 21, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at the St. James Eagles Club. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a delicious homemade spaghetti dinner served with garlic toast and a fresh lettuce salad.

Dinner prices are \$12.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children under 10, and free for children under 5; at the door \$14.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children under 10, free for children under 5.

Be sure to save room for dessert, available for a freewill donation!

Advance tickets may be purchased by calling Augustana's Church Office, Susan at 507-317-5923, or contact an AES Council Member.

All proceeds will benefit the ministries and mission of AES Ministries (Augustana/East Sveadahl).

We look forward to sharing an evening of good food, fellowship, and community with you while supporting our ministry.

AUGUSTANA - August

CIRCLES

Circles don't meet in August

USHERS

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

LECTORS

August 2: Judy Thulien
9: AES Picnic – Joint @ East
16: Jim Moody
23: Kirsten Freitag
30: Kristen Gertsema

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

Jeanne Miest, Kari Miest, Colleen Newman,
Judy Thulien, Mary Anderson

MEMORIALS

In memory of Myron Engel
\$20.00 – Worship/Music/Technology
\$160.00 - Cemetery

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Please call the church office to sponsor our Missionary. The cost is \$20.00 per week.
August: Jim & Judy Anderson

COMMUNION SERVERS

August 2: Jill & Terry
9: Joint @ East

NOISY OFFERING

Sunday, August 30th.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Sewing Circle

AUGUSTANA - August

TRANSITIONS

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 2026. Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month, and the first two of the four 5th Sundays of 2026. To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792. August 16th & 30th: 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

August 2: Greg & Judy Thulien
9: Joint @ East
16: Ashley Johnson
23: Outdoor Service @ Memorial Park
30: Stan & Nancy Kunkel

BRIDAL SHOWER

You're invited to an open house bridal shower for Kinzee Miest and Ben Wicklund on Saturday, August 22, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Augustana Church. Join us as we celebrate the happy couple, and please bring a favorite recipe to share—we hope to see you there!

EAST

TRANSITIONS:

Funeral services were held for **Darryl Charles Jensen** on June 14, 2026. He was born March 3, 1942 and passed away June 14, 2026.

Funeral services were held for **Wayne Donald Anderson** on June 30, 2026. He was born March 10, 1947 and passed away June 7, 2026.

May God's peace comfort their families and friends.

Sawyer Dean Miller, son of Hannah Huelsenbeck and James Miller, was baptized on June 28, 2026. He was born February 10, 2026.

Welcome to God's Family, East, and AES Ministries.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Francey, Dee, Mike, Brenda, Jamie, Marie, Phyllis, Bruce, Sam, Chloe, Orval

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through June	\$40,720.02
Received through June	28,574.62
Behind through June	- \$12,145.40
Received in June	\$ 5,264.10

Happy Birthday Happy Baptismal Date

- 1 Ron Askeland [9-8]
- Gavin Menssen [9-23]
- 4 Jim Callahan [9-20]
- 5 Samuel Braaten [6-7]
- 8 Matthew Anderson [9-3]
- 10 Mariah Grunewald [10-25]
- 12 Matthew Fisch [9-24]
- Julene Hoffman [9-16]
- 13 Andrew Beck [9-25]
- 14 Jeren Marxen [-73]
- 15 Noah Frances [10-12]
- 20 Tim Anderson [10-8]
- 21 Keith Newberg [9-30]
- 23 Dean Anderson [9-4]
- 24 Lori Urevig [9-24]
- 25 Chad Urevig [9-14]
- 26 Evonne Moll [10-6]

Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan.

EAST

AUGUST RADIO BROADCASTS

August 2: First Lutheran
9: East
16: Augustana
23: First Lutheran
30: Augustana

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lisa Shellum, Lori Urevig

VISITING COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll

USHERS

August 2: Torkelsons
August 9: AES Youth

LECTORS

August 2: Dale Anderson
9: Marshall Smith
16: NO EAST SERVICE/Threshing Bee
23: Worship in Memorial Park
30: Joint Worship, Augustana

RADIO SPONSORS

August 9:
September 13:
October 11:
November 8:
November 29:
December 13:

We need sponsors for the above broadcasts!
If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00.

You've got to be very careful if you
don't know where you're going,
because you might not get there.
- Yogi Berra

Always laugh when you can;
it is cheap medicine.
Merriment is the sunny side of existence.
- Lord Byron



AES AUGUST NEWS



AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS

- ~ August 4 Pool Party – All ROAR students and families are invited to the pool party at the St. James outdoor pool from 7-9 pm. Youth ages 10 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.
- ~ August 9 Bingo – Youth play bingo with residents of Pleasant View. Be there at 1:45 pm.
- ~ August 23 Group Event – Youth from First Lutheran, Presbyterian, and AES meet at First Presbyterian at 7:00 pm for an evening of fun and games!
- ~ August 30 Blessing of the Back Packs – All students and teachers come for a blessing before school starts September 1st. Bring your Back Pack!

LADIES NIGHT OUT ~ August 5th

Please join us on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 for a “Ladies Night Out” at 5:30pm in the “Porch” at Rivers Edge Grill (Golf Course). We will order off the menu. RSVPs are appreciated to the Augustana Church Office (507-375-4792). Please leave a message if Lauren is unavailable. Hosted by Rebecca Circle – We look forward to seeing you there!

AES JOINT WORSHIP AND PICNIC ~ August 9th

The Annual AES Picnic is August 9th at East – worship is at 10:00 am followed by the picnic. All are invited! Hope to see you there!

WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE PARK ~ August 23

All AES members are invited to join the Worship Service in the Park on Sunday the 23rd at 10:30 am. There will be no service at East.

SAVE THE DATE ~ September 19

Relay for Life will be held Saturday, September 19th from 4-9 pm at Deer Park. Survivor Walk, Team Walk, Bull Riding contest, Pie eating contest, and more to come! See you there!

PASTOR MANDY WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pr. Mandy will be out of the office Thursday August 6th, Friday August 7th, Monday August 10th, Thursday August 27th, and Friday, August 28th. Deacon Lyla is on call.

THANK YOU

Dear WELCA Members, Thanks for the beautiful Birthday card and the generous gift enclosed that I received from you. It's very uplifting to be remembered. It gives one a “send off” for another year, reminding one not only for the gift of life but that she has people with whom she shares this life. I send Hugs to all of you.

Thanks and Love, Lyla

AUGUSTANA FINANCIAL FACTS JUNE

	June	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 21,362.82	\$ 89,956.34
Total Expenses	- \$ 16,424.23	- \$ 106,454.70
	- \$ 4,938.59	- \$ 16,498.36

Respectfully Submitted, Lauren Moll - Treasurer

AES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES – did not meet

EAST SVEADAHN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – July 8, 2026

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, July 8, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Dale Anderson, Julene Hoffman, Sonja Coleman, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Kris Suess & Lori Urevig

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

A motion by Dale, seconded by Julene, and passed to approve the minutes for the East Council meeting from June 11, 2026 as printed in the newsletter.

Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary, presented her report and in the absence of Kris Suess, Treasurer, Chairman Tom presented her report. A motion by Janet, seconded by Julene, and passed to approve the reports as presented.

Outstanding bills were presented and a motion by Wayne, seconded by Dale, and passed to approve paying.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Since we last met Pastor Mandy has had three funerals and one baptism at East.
- VBS went very, very well with 53 youth in attendance.
- Sunday, July 26, Augustana is having a special meeting prior to their church service and Pastor Mandy requested to be there so Deacon Lyla will be leading the service at East. Service will be at 9 a.m.
- Sunday, August 9 is our annual AES Picnic with a joint service at East followed by lunch. Looking forward to seeing everyone.
- Sunday, August 16 is the Butterfield Threshing Bee church service. East will not have a service that day, but you are all invited to the service at Butterfield or at Augustana.
- Sunday, August 23 there will be an AES joint service at Memorial Park in St. James beginning at 10:30 a.m. Come and join us.
- Sunday, August 23 there will be an ecumenical youth gathering at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.
- Sunday, August 30 is a joint service at Augustana.
- Sunday, September 13 is God's Work Our Hands Sunday. If anyone has any project ideas, please let the council know.

AES REPORT: See full report in the newsletter.

SUSAN'S REPORT: None

OLD BUSINESS: Reminder of the upcoming Spaghetti fundraiser. Mark your calendar for September 21.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Julene presented the idea of having a silent auction along with the spaghetti fundraiser. Council approved.
- Our sound system issues were discussed. Tabled until next meeting.

Noisy offering for July is TBD.

(continued)

As there was no further business, a motion by Janet seconded by Dale and passed to adjourn.
The next church council meeting will be August 13, 2026.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – July 8, 2026

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

Absent: Nicole Meyer

Terry called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm. Nick shared the opening devotions.

Approve minutes from the last meeting - A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sandy. Motion carried.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Jodi presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Lauren, who was unable to attend. Darrick made a motion to approve the report. Motion carried.

Giving Report: Deanna presented the Giving Report. Jodi made a motion to approve the report, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mandy reported that New Member Sunday will be planned for at a service in Sept. Since the last council meeting, Pastor Mandy has officiated: 1 funeral at Augustana, 2 funerals at East Sveadah and 2 graveside services. Vacation Bible School was held in June at First Presbyterian Church and was very successful. Positive feedback was received regarding the afternoon schedule, and an average of 52 students attended throughout the week. An ecumenical youth night with First Lutheran, First Presbyterian and AES Ministries is scheduled for Aug 23.

AES Ministries Report: Planning continues for the spaghetti feed in September. Tickets will be available soon.

Committee Reports:

Education: The committee has had difficulty finding a meeting night that works for everyone during the summer months. It was decided to hold a longer meeting in August to prepare for the coming year. A pool party is scheduled for Aug 4 from 7-9 pm.

Evangelism: The committee continues working to connect with the congregation and update the membership records.

Worship, Music and Technology: Church in the Park is scheduled for Aug 23. The committee is also planning to host "Praise in the Pub" during Winter Carnival weekend. Sign-up sheets will be circulated for coffee hour volunteers, ushers, and greeters. Families are especially encouraged to sign up to serve.

Finance: The committee is working on establishing a Venmo account for the church.

Property/Cemetery: The kitchen freezer has been defrosted and seems to be working better. Salt was also added to the water softener. The Cemetery Association cleaned up one of the trees that fell during the recent storm. John Miest volunteered to stain the Little Pantry boxes located outside the church.

Old Business

Church Security - The Blink security cameras have been delivered, and we need to determine where and when

Membership List - Work continues on updating the church membership list.

New Business:

Financial Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for July 26 following worship service.

Neighborhood Pantry: Terry was able to schedule 4 volunteers for the July pantry schedule.

God's work, Our Hands is scheduled for Sept 13. The service project will be cleaning monuments at the cemetery. The Cemetery Association will oversee grass reseeding this fall. Terry shared that he would like to donate the cost of Augustana's portion of the grass reseeding in memory of his father, Myron.

(continued)

Church Building insurance: Council continues to explore ways to reduce insurance premium costs. The October insurance payment will be lower because the changes approved by council last year were not implemented.

Employee Reviews: Terry would like to conduct employee reviews in October to assist with planning for the 2027 budget.

Congregational Vitality Survey: Pastor Mandy and Terry have been working with Pastor Troy from ELCA Synod on a congregational survey. The survey would gather feedback from the congregation, with the Synod compiling the results to provide insight into congregational priorities and assist with long-term planning. Sandy made a motion to proceed with the survey. Following additional discussion regarding survey distribution and anticipated response rates, Terry made a motion to table further discussion until next month's meeting. Council approved the distribution of a letter to the congregation regarding the church's financial status in an effort to provide transparency and keep members informed. The letter was signed by the Augustana Church Council.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

AES MINISTRIES
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AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2: 9:00 am [E] Communion 10:30 am [A] Communion

August 9: AES Picnic
10:00 am [E] Joint Communion Worship lunch follows

August 16: No Worship Service at East - Threshing Bee
10:30 am [A] Worship

August 23: Joint Worship Service at bandstand in Memorial Park
10:30 am

August 30: Joint Worship
10:00 am [A]

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana & East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
Pastor Mandy France Visitation Deacon Lyla Klee