

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



Pastor's Column

Dear Church,

Summer is here! School is out. The swimming pools are open. Campers, grills, and patios are in full use. Summer is truly one of the most enjoyable seasons of the year with all the extra outdoor activities, time with family and friends, and what seems like a slower pace. This season of relaxation also offers us an opportunity to engage on a deeper level with our faith.

I encourage you this summer to be intentional about your faith life. Summer is the perfect time to spend more time in God's Word, volunteer to help your neighbors and connect with your faith community outside of the programmatic year. I use the word intentional, because summer can get busy, too. We are pulled in many directions and it's easy to put your faith life to the side when so many other activities are calling your name. Make it a practice this summer to not only kindle the flames in your bonfire pit, but also to rekindle the joy of discipleship.

How will you be intentional this summer with your faith? In what ways can you serve God and your neighbors? Prayerfully consider the ways in which you can tend to your faith this summer. The church doesn't close for the summer. We are open and looking forward to the opportunity to worship, serve, and love God alongside you.

In Christ, Pastor Mandy France

Walking Club Is Back!!!

Join Pastor Mandy this summer for walking club. We will gather at the front of Augustana for a short prayer before walking. All abilities are welcome!! Please check the church Facebook page for weather related cancellations.

In June we will walk on Sunday June 7th and Sunday June 28th both starting at 6pm.

AUGUSTANA - June

CIRCLES

June 3: 9:00 am Martha Circle

USHERS

John Miest, Lyle Anderson, Dennis Johnson, Doug Nibbe, Bryan Nelson, Rich Olsen, Greg Thulien, Eugene Zarn, Les Zellmann

LECTORS

June 7: Deb Style
 14: Les Zellmann
 21: Jim Moody
 28: Katie Zezulka

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

Jayne Anderson, Linda Connell, Joyce Nelson, Louise Olsen, Deb Style, Deanna Hoffman, Cec Kulseth

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Judy Berg**
 \$50.00 – Undesignated

In memory of **Suzann Olson**
 \$50.00 – Undesignated

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 28th.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Church Men’s Group

COMMUNION SERVERS

June 7: John Coleman & Bob Moll
 14: Jill Beckius & James Joosten

AUGUSTANA - June

TRANSITIONS

Funerals

Peggy Guillen passed away April 24, 2026.
 Her funeral was May 1, 2026.

Janice Vetter passed away.

Dennis Madison passed away May 15, 2026.
 His funeral was May 21, 2026

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, 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.

June 28th: 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 7: Lisa Carlson
 14: Deanna Hoffman
 21: Ashley Johnson
 28: Bill & Kirsten Freitag

Neighborhood Pantry Volunteer Sign-Up

Volunteers needed to help with our local food shelf, Neighborhood Pantry. Augustana’s dates are Thursday, July 16th and Thursday, October 15th. 3-4 volunteers are needed to sign up from 4 – 6 pm. Job entails stocking and restocking shelves during the open hours and requires some physical abilities to lift boxes. Families are encouraged to sign up.

EAST

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

Needed through April	\$27,146.68
Received through April	17,282.77
Behind through April	- \$ 9,863.91
Received in April	\$ 5,623.96

VISITING COMMITTEE

Kris Suess, Cathy Anderson

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lorita Nasman, Bernie Jurgens

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

Two are better than one ...
 for if they fall,
 one will lift up the other.
 -The Book of Ecclesiastes

EAST

TRANSITIONS

RADIO BROADCASTS

- June 7: First Lutheran, St. James
- 14: East
- 21: First Lutheran, St. James
- 28: Augustana

RADIO SPONSORS

Broadcasts sponsored by East:

- June 14:
- July 12:
- August 9:
- September 13:
- October 11:
- November 8:
- November 29:
- December 13:

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

LECTORS

- June 7:
- 14:
- 21:
- 28:

USHER

George Nasman





AES JUNE NEWS



AES GRADUATES:

The St. James Graduation Ceremony is Friday, May 29th, 7:00 pm in the High School Event Center.

Erick Avila, son of Jose and Dana Avila

Ashlynn Dannhoff, daughter of Nicholas and Jennifer Dannhoff

Jenavieve Knaack, daughter of James and Kamra Joosten, and Russell Knaack

Vivian Leach, daughter of Jesse and Christina Leach

Lydia Overson, daughter of Trent and Vicki Overson

Sophie Solheid, daughter of Molly Solheid and Cole Lesch

Ava Spitzner, daughter of Jeremy and Heather Spitzner

Peyton Wolner, son of Michael and Jody Wolner

Senior Recognition Sunday was May 17th. Congratulations, Graduates!

BIBLE CAMPERS

These AES Youth will be attending bible camp at Lake Shetek or Green Lake this summer: **Dacen and Emery Anderson; Johnathan and Thomas Berg; Miriam France; Aryn Korst; Abigail and Rebecca Meyer; Jaydyn and Bailey Moll; Penny Schmidt; and Marshall Smith.** Keep these youth in your thoughts and prayers!

Our Bless a Camper Campaign ended May 31st and our campers couldn't be more THANKFUL for your generosity!! Your gifts towards camp are memories they will hold dearly throughout their life. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your continued support of our youth and this program. Trish Anderson and the AES campers

WELCOME to "NEW BOOKS IN THE EAST LIBRARY"

Sacred Tears by Lindsey Wheeler - God sees you, he loves you and your story is not over. A dear book to read for comfort.

Jesus Calling by Sarah Young - Devotions for every day of the year.

Children's Books: David and Goliath Retold by Russell Punter - A wonderful Usborne Little Board Book
More Very First Bible Stories - Excellent board book by DK

AUGUSTANA FLOWERS

WELCA planted flowers in the planters and pots with the help of a Thrivent Action Team Card. Volunteers are needed to water them. Please sign up to water one day of the week. To choose a day, please call the church office or Jeanne Miest at 507-380-0350. We need just a few more volunteers.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 15th - 18th

VBS will be held June 15th – 18th at the First Presbyterian Church from 1 – 4 pm. There will be an ending program on Thursday at 4:00 pm. All are invited!

2026 SWMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY - JUNE 5th - 6th

Members of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod will gather at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN on Friday June 5th at 6:00 pm and recess on Saturday, June 6th at 5 pm. This year's theme is "**Grounded in Hope**". Our delegates are Tom Anderson and Jodi Coleman.

FINANCIAL FACTS		APRIL 2026	
	April	YTD	
Total Giving	\$ 15,446.80	\$ 59,415.62	
Total Expenses	- \$ 15,483.42	\$ 68,879.18	
	- \$ 36.62	- \$ 9,463.56	

We were almost even for the month of April as you can see the month was only short by 36.62 but our Year-to-Date total is in the negative. As we move into summer, giving is typically lower and 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

ALBION CHURCH BAZAAR - JUNE 20TH

The Annual Albion Church Bazaar is Saturday, June 20th beginning at 12:00 pm at the church. Quilts, crafts, rugs, fellowship, and food! Auction starts at 1:30 pm.

GREEN LAKE QUILT AUCTION - JULY 24th - 25th

This year's auction and Maker's Market will be held Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th. Quilts and Silent Auction items need to be submitted by July 15th. Donations are accepted at any time. More information is available at kpalan@gllm.org

EAST SVEADAHL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – May 14, 2026

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Julene Hoffman, Lori Urevig, Sonja Coleman, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Tom Anderson & Dale Anderson

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

A motion by Julene, seconded by Kris, and passed to approve the minutes for the East Council meeting on April 9, 2026 as printed in the newsletter.

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

Outstanding bills were presented and approved to pay.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Sunday, May 17, will be Senior Recognition for Erick Avila.

(continued)

- May 31 is an AES Joint Service at East starting at 10 a.m.
- Vacation Bible School registration is open. VBS includes AES Ministries, First Lutheran, and Presbyterian Churches in St. James and will be held at First Presbyterian June 15-18 from 1-4 p.m.
- East is hoping to be able to have some summer outdoor services in 2026.
- Synod Assembly is June 5-6, and Tom Anderson is our representative.
- Ten youth are signed up for the National Youth Gathering in 2027 at Minneapolis.
- The youth will be having a campout on August 8 at East, with Sunday, August 9 being our annual AES picnic.
- August 16 is the annual Threshing Bee in Butterfield. East Sveadahl will not have a service that Sunday as everyone is invited to the Threshing Bee Sunday service. Augustana will have a service.
- May 30 there will be a wedding at East.

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

AES REPORT: The next meeting is Thursday, June 4th.

SUSAN'S REPORT: Dana Avila asked to use the church for Erick's grad party in case of rainy weather.

Approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Reminder of AES doing a joint fund raiser in September at the Eagles Club in St. James. Further details will be given.

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

The next church council meeting will be June 11, 2026.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – May 13, 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 7:04 pm. Jodi shared devotions. Council members brought prayer concerns forward, and Pastor Mandy opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting was made by Darrick and seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

Reports:

Treasurer: Lauren presented the treasurer's report. Higher expenses for the month included workers' compensation payment, SWMN Synod commitment payment, and building insurance quarterly payment. Jodi made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Bob. Motion carried.

Giving: Deanna presented the giving report. Sandy made a motion to approve the offering report with corrections, seconded by Jodi. Motion carried.

Pr. Mandy's Report: Since the last meeting, Pastor Mandy has conducted 2 funerals, and a private graveside service is scheduled for May 22. Brewed Theology will begin again on May 26 at the VFW. Confirmation has wrapped up for 2 students for the year and curriculum planning for 10 or 11 students for next year will begin. VBS will be held June 15-18 from 1-4 pm at First Presbyterian Church. Allison Kulseth will lead music, and Nicole Meyer will assist with crafts. A leader meeting will be held on May 17 and decorating will take place on June 14. Synod Assembly will be held on June 5-6. Jodi Coleman will attend for Augustana and Tom Anderson will attend for East Sveadahl. Pastor Mandy also plans to restart the walking club this summer. Dates are still to be determined.

AES Ministries: Will meet in June

Committee Reports:

Education - VBS will be held June 15-18. A leader meeting is scheduled for May 17. Decorating and crew

(continued)

leader meeting will take place June 14 at 3 pm. VBS registration closes May 25, and families who have not yet registered will be contacted. Summer activities are being planned. Discussion was held regarding next year's classes, teachers and future lessons.

Evangelism/Social Ministry - Flowers were distributed after worship on Mother's Day. Likewise, plans are underway for Father's Day. Work continues on the church directory, including members with missing addresses or phone numbers.

Worship/Music/Technology - A church service in the park is being planned for Aug 23 at the north shelter. Additional details will be shared later. The committee continues to revise usher schedules and staffing.

Finance - The committee continues to work on establishing a Venmo account. Kristen Gertsema continues training with Deanna as backup support.

Property/Cemetery - John has been handling animal control issues. One toilet in the women's restroom was repaired. Work continues with Mike Kulseth regarding the Eternal Flame Candle in the sanctuary. Bob has begun mowing the church grounds and also at the cemetery.

Youth/Ministry - The flower basket fundraiser sold 67 baskets and raised \$670. Ten students are signed up for the National Youth Gathering. A beef stick bouquet fundraiser is planned for Father's Day in June. The Youth Committee will complete a service project cleaning up garbage after the Wat Co Fair. A campout is planned for August if at least 10 students register.

Old Business:

Council Contact info - Contact information was updated as needed.

Security Camera - The council continues reviewing security camera options, including Blink cameras.

Neighborhood Pantry (formerly Wat Co Food Shelf) - Members should watch for a sign-up sheet around the church for volunteer dates and times.

Time and Talent sheets - The goal is to have this updated by 2027.

New Business:

Communion Training - Communion setup and serving training will take place after worship on June 7.

Quarterly meeting - A quarterly congregational meeting is planned for June 14 during coffee hour to provide updates on year-to-date income and expenses. Lauren will prepare financial reports by June 7. Discussion topics will also include: Updating the church directory, maintaining accurate membership records, reviewing active vs. inactive membership, and updating the church constitution regarding the number of council members.

As there was no further business, Darrick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John. Motion carried. The meeting was closed at 8:23 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

WELCA BOARD MEETING – May 3, 2026

Those present: LeeAnn Nibbe, Nancy Kunkel and Jeanne Miest. We first went over the treasurer's report for February/March. St. Lucia profits have been distributed as decided on by circles. The proceeds from our Lenten Supper was given to the Neighborhood Pantry in memory of Judy Berg. We are grateful for the generous gift to WELCA in memory of Judy Berg and will be deciding on special ways we can honor her with it. We discussed May and June birthday gifts. Quilts will be put out for graduation recognition on May 17th for the graduates to choose from. Rebecca Circle would like help planting flowers in the planters Thursday, May 14th at 10:30 sponsored by Thriven Action Teams. We will also ask for volunteers and to water the flowers this summer in the newsletter and bulletins. WELCA will provide Altar flowers in honor of all mothers for next Sunday. Rebecca Circle will organize WELCA's annual Women's Night Out and will publish details once a date is set.

WELCA board will meet again in August when many fall activities begin.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Miest, temporary secretary

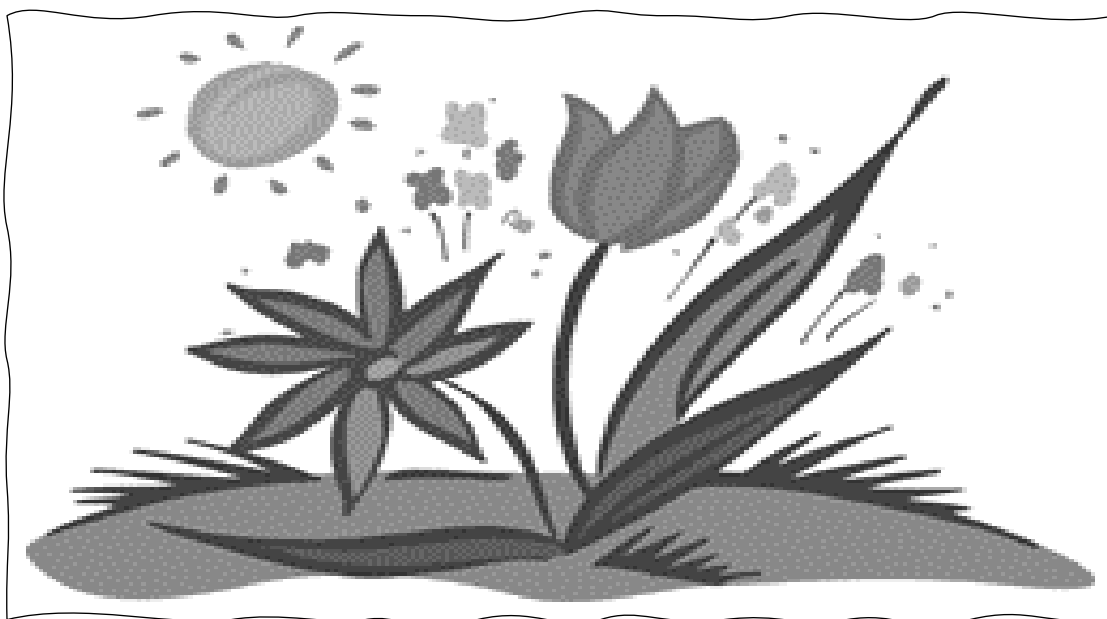
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HAPPY
*Father's
Day*

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



AES MINISTRIES
AUGUSTANA & EAST SVEADAHN LUTHERAN CHURCHES
MANDY FRANCE, PASTOR LYLA KLEE, VISITATION DEACON