

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER





WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Children must qualify for *4 year old preschool* or older to participate. There is a class for grades 7+.



CLASS TIMES

Classes will be held Wednesday evenings from 6 pm - 7 pm, with meals the 1st and 3rd week of each month from 5:30 - 6 pm.



CLASS START DATE

Classes start September 30th with an extra meal at 5:30 pm.



RALLY SUNDAY!

Join us after 10 am service at Augustana, September 27th for Rally Sunday. There will be fun and games as we celebrate starting a new year!

REGISTER TODAY!



Scan above QR code or enter the URL above to get to the registration form!

<https://forms.gle/zA7NZcifYrpPRS2s8>

PLEASE CONTACT AES MINISTRIES FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BUY SOME DOUGH,



Help Us
**RAISE
SOME DOUGH!**

**ELCA
NATIONAL
YOUTH
GATHERING**

MINNEAPOLIS • 2027

Your purchase helps
fund our journey to the
ELCA National Youth
Gathering in Minneapolis!

♥ COOKIE DOUGH TODAY. MINNEAPOLIS TOMORROW. ♥

ONLY
\$15
PER TRAY

- ✓ 3 DOZEN
- ✓ PRE-PORTIONED
- ✓ READY TO BAKE!



SUGAR

Classic & sweet!



CHOCOLATE CHIP

Everyone's favorite!



**OATMEAL
CHOCOLATE CHIP**

Hearty, chewy & delicious!



ORDER DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 30



PICK UP DATE:
OCTOBER 11



CONTACT A YOUTH TO ORDER!



AES MINISTRIES

AES Youth COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

Supports: 2027 National Youth Gathering - Minneapolis

Customer Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Flavor Choice	Price Per Bag	Qty of Bags	Total Price
Chocolate Chip (36 count)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Sugar (36 count)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip (36 count)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
		GRAND TOTAL:	\$ _____

Order Total: \$ _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Payment Method: Cash _____ Check _____ (Checks Payable to: AES Youth)

Please return orders by: September 30th Order Pickup Date: October 11th

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Cena de espaguetis a beneficio

Enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner.

Disfrute de una cena casera de espaguetis.

Includes garlic bread and side salad.

Incluye pan de ajo y ensalada mixta.

Desserts available for free will donation

Postres disponibles a cambio de una donación voluntaria.

Monday September 21st

Lunes 21 de septiembre

5:00 PM- 8:00 PM /De 17:00 a 20:00

Pre Sale Ticket Prices

Adults: \$12 (13+)/ Adultos: \$12

Children (6-12) : \$8 /Niños (6-12 años): \$8

Ages 5 & under Free/ Gratis para niños de 5 años o menos

**Pre-Sale tickets available by calling: Augustana Church office @
(507) 375 4792 or Eagles Club @ (507)375-3255.**

**Entradas anticipadas disponibles llamando a la oficina de la Iglesia
Augustana al (507) 375-4792 o al Eagles Club al (507) 375-3255.**

**Tickets available at Door Adults \$14 , Entradas disponibles en la puerta
adultos \$14,Children (6-12) \$10 niños (6-12 años) \$10**

Ages 5 & under Free/ Gratis para niños de 5 años o menos

Take - out & In- town Delivery Available

Disponible para llevar y entrega a domicilio en la localidad

**Thank you for supporting Augustana & East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
Gracias por apoyar a la Iglesia Luterana Augustana y East Sveadahl.**

AUGUSTANA

CIRCLES

September 1: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle
 September 2: 9:00 am Martha Circle
 September 15: 9:30 am Sewing Circle

USHERS

Terry Engel, Andrew Freitag,
 Andre Freitag, Mark Kulseth

LECTORS

September 6: Thomas Berg
 13: Lisa Carlson
 20: Jim Moody
 Joint @ A 27: Jodi Coleman

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.

MEMORIALS

None to report

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.

September 27th: Available

NOISY OFFERING

Sun., September 28th – Goes to Watonwan County Humane Society.

ALTAR GUILD

Lisa Carlson, Melanie Fredin, Tami Larson

Save the Date! St. Lucia

St. Lucia will be held on Sat., December 12, 2026

The Church office will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

AUGUSTANA

TRANSITIONS

None to report

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

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

The month of September is 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.aeslutheran.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

September 6: Darrick & Kari Miest
 13: Les & Kristi Zellmann
 20: Eugene Zarn
 Joint @ A 28: John & Jeanne Miest

COMMUNION SERVERS

September 6: Terry Engel
 14: Nicole Meyer & James Joosten

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Martha Circle

FINANCIAL FACTS

	July	YTD
Total Giving	\$16,981.54	\$ 106,937.88
Total Expense	- \$20,300.38	\$ 129,888.08
	- \$ 3,318.84	- \$ 22,950.20
- Respectfully Submitted – Lauren Moll - Treasurer		

EAST

TRANSITIONS:

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through July	\$ 47,506.69
Received through July	42,389.72
Behind through July	- \$ 5,116.97
Received in July	\$ 13,484.93

USHERS

Bryon Christenson and Family

Happy Birthday Happy Baptismal Day

- 3 Laura Sense 9-20
- 7 Charles Noren 11-21
- 8 Lyla Avila
Wilmar Tietz 9-24
- 9 Zane Eineke 3-4
- 13 Brogan Eineke 5-27
- 15 Michael Menssen 10-11
- 16 Steven Johnson 11-2
James Krogstad 12-10
Terry Thulien 10-10
- 17 Lee Carlson 10-22
- 19 Tammy Stevens-Rathman 10-27
- 20 Riley Husby 11-24
- 21 Britta Torkelson 10-23
- 22 Nick Griffith 8-6
- 25 Keagan Jurgens 12-10
- 26 Londyn Anderson 2-23
- 30 Lowlla Lenz 11-3

One ought, every day at least, to
hear a little song,
read a good poem,
see a fine picture,
And , if it were possible,
to speak a few reasonable words.
-Goethe

EAST

SEPTEMBER RADIO BROADCASTS

September 6: First Lutheran, St. James
13: East Sveadahl
20: First Lutheran, St. James
27: Augustana

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Deb Anderson and Susie Carlson

LECTORS

September 6: Kris Suess
13: Evonne Moll
20: Wayne Jurgens
27: Joint at Augustana

VISITING COMMITTEE

Sonja Coleman and Julene Hoffman

RADIO SPONSORS

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.

Be Inspired 7 Days a Week

Start each day with inspiring tips like these:

1. Happy is a decision you can make.
2. More blessings are on their way.
3. You are braver than you know.
4. One smile sparks another.
5. Fun is still the best stress cure there is.
6. Hope helps, hope heals.
7. **A prayer is a wish with wings.**
From Francy Anderson

Ongoing -- Stewardship



AES SEPTEMBER NEWS



**The REGULAR SUNDAY FALL SCHEDULE for AES Ministries
begins on October 4th continuing through February:**

9:00 am service at Augustana

10:00 am Augustana Coffee Hour

10:30 am service at East

Communion Services: 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month – East & Augustana

OPERATION CHILD SHOEBOX

Thank you to those who shared your kindness and generosity to the AES Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. You have brought a smile and a brighter future to a child as we introduce Jesus. Thank you for your support.

To those who missed the opportunity to donate, you can still donate; the project isn't done yet. We will have a packing day in November and a blessing of the shoeboxes, Sunday (November 22nd). Watch for more information.

God Bless, Lorita Nasman

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

God's Work, Our Hands- celebrating who we are as a church.

"God's Work, Our Hands" is the dedicated motto and annual day of service for the ELCA. It marks an occasion for church members to step outside church walls and help local communities.

We are planning our service project this year to work on our property at Mt. Hope cemetery on Sunday, September 13th after worship. We will be washing/ cleaning monuments, trimming trees, adding soil to ruts and holes throughout our section. Weather and neglect the past couple of years has given us an opportunity to pay our respects to our saints(family and friends) of the congregation. We will go to the cemetery following worship. There will be lunch and refreshments while we work. There is work for any age-young or old (many hands make light work). Watch for more information. What a great way to show our ministry in action serving our community. Please plan on helping however you can.

Thank you, Evangelism and Social Ministry committee. Augustana Church Council

WELCA’S BAKELESS BAKESALE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Augustana WELCA is hosting a “**Bakeless Bake Sale**” and serving brunch during coffee hour at Augustana on Sunday, October 4, 2026, during coffee hour.

Donations can be given at worship and coffee hour that day or dropped off at the church office.

The Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraising Poem

Many is the time I heard you say
I would rather give a “Dollar” than bake today
And so, we are asking you to help more or less
To make our Bakeless Bake Sale a big success.

Just send us the money that it would take
To bake a loaf of bread or a beautiful cake
Or send in the amount of money it takes to buy
A dozen rolls or maybe a pie.
We know you can help us if you will but try.



THANK YOUS

Thank You, WELCA ladies from Augustana for inviting East to your Ladies Night Out. It was great fun and fellowship.
East Ladies

Dear members of Augustana and East Sveadahl,

Thank you for your prayers and support in the passing of our father and grandfather.

Your cards, gifts, and kindness shown to our family was heartfelt, and will always be remembered.

Special thanks to Pastor Mandy, Deacon Lyla, and everyone for your visits at Brandt Ridge and Pleasantview.

Thank you to all for your help and caring at his celebration of life service.

- Terry, Heidi Engel and families. Dale, Patty Penning and families.

AES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES – July 26, 2026

Members present: Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, Heidi Engel, James Joosten, Wayne Jurgens, Lynn Rolsoven
Lori Urevig, Kyla Schloman, Pr. Mandy, and Susan Anderson

Kyla Schlomann, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm at Augustana

No member concerns were presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

~ The **Annual Church Picnic** is Sunday, August 9th at 10:00 am at East

The Church Picnic preparations were reviewed. Menu: pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, root beer floats provided by East; sides provided by Augustana.

~ Details for the **Spaghetti Supper** were addressed.

The Spaghetti Supper is Monday, September 21st, 5:30-8:00 pm at the Eagles Club in St. James.

~ **Tickets and Selling**

Tickets are available from AES Joint Council members, Augustana church office, and Susan.

Sales will end Tuesday, September 8th

Prices will increase by \$2.00 if purchased the evening of the supper, September 21.

Lynne and Leigh Rolshoven will sell tickets at the Annual Picnic on August 9th.

~ **Advertising**

Sandy Berg, James Joosten and Lori Urevig will work on making and distributing posters.

The Chamber will be notified.

Pr. Mandy will put the information on social media.

~ **Volunteer Lists and Shifts**

Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, and Pr. Mandy will talk about the Supper at church services.

There will be three shifts – 3:30-5:30pm; 5:15-7:30pm; 7:15pm-Closing

Volunteers will be needed to fill these shifts.

Jobs were identified and filled by Joint Council members:

Shift sign-up sheets: Kyla Scholman

Dessert sign-up sheets: Lynne and Sandy

Greeter: Pr. Mandy

Tickets and Roamers: James Joosten and Kyla

Desserts: Sandy and youth

This Spaghetti Dinner will only be successful if all AES Ministry members take part! Workers and desserts will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

~ **Financial Follow Up**

Ideas and impressions from the financial meetings were shared. It was agreed that AES Ministries needs to move forward now. Plans on how to proceed need to be ready for the annual meetings in January and February.

Joint Council members will share these thoughts with their church council.

(continued)

~ Compensation Committee

Kyla and Tom will work on the compensation package for Pr. Mandy and Lyla which needs to be finished by October. All financial figures were fully researched, set by the Synod, and passed at the Synod Assembly in June.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 3rd, 7:00 pm at East.

Wayne Jurgens made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Heidi Engel, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

EAST SVEADahl COUNCIL MINUTES -- August 11, 2026

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, August 11, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Dale Anderson, Julene Hoffman, Sonja Coleman, Kris Suess, Lori Urevig, 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.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the minutes for the East Council meeting from July 10, 2026 as printed in the newsletter.

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

Outstanding bills were presented by Tom and approved to pay.

A discussion took place on pre-paying propane from Crystal Valley. Tabled until next meeting.

A motion by Janet, seconded by Julene, and passed to approve sending the previous noisy offerings to the St. James Ambulance and St. James and LaSalle Fire Department.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Bible Camp was enjoyed by those who attended and some of the campers are interested in attending other opportunities offered at Shetek.
- Thank you to the Augustana WELCA for the fun time at the AES Women's Night Out.
- The annual AES Picnic was enjoyed by those attending.
- Sunday, August 16 East Church will be held at the Butterfield Threshing Bee service.
- Sunday, August 23 there will be an ecumenical youth gathering at First Presbyterian Church in St. James for AES, First Presbyterian and First Lutheran youth.
- Sunday, August 30 is a joint service at Augustana, and Pastor Mandy will be having the Blessing of the Back Packs.
- Sunday, September 13 is God's Work Our Hands and East members will be making spaghetti sauce for the AES fundraiser.
- Sunday, September 27 is Rally Sunday and it will be a joint service at Augustana at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 30 is the ROAR Kick-off. The ROAR leaders are asking for volunteers to help serve suppers at ROAR.
- Friday, October 23 the older youth are asking to have a Halloween Party at East. Board approved.

AES REPORT: See full report in the newsletter.

SUSAN'S REPORT: None

OLD BUSINESS: Reminder of the upcoming Spaghetti fundraiser with funds being used for future outreach programs for AES. Mark your calendar for September 21. A reminder to ask to sell and purchase advanced tickets for the fundraiser. Ask a council member for details or check the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The noisy offerings will be determined.

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

The next church council meeting will be September 10, 2026.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2026

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

Absent: Jodi Coleman, Nick Dannhoff, and Nicole Meyer

Call to Order: Terry called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Member Concerns: Doug Nibbe shared the history of Long Lake Church and the different steps they went through before the church closed.

Devotion and Prayer: Terry shared a devotion, and Pastor Mandy opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of minutes from last month: Darrick made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Sandy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Darrick read the treasurer's report that Lauren had prepared. Higher expenses for the month included the quarterly building insurance payment, SWMN Synod commitment payment, and Worker's Compensation payment. Sandy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. John seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Giving Report: Deanna presented the giving report and one column appeared to be incorrect. A motion was made to hold approval of the report until it could be reviewed. Deanna confirmed the order for the envelope packets from January through June of next year. The decision regarding where to send the noisy offering was made later in the meeting.

Pastor Mandy's Report: Pastor Mandy is planning an ecumenical youth night with First Presbyterian, First Lutheran, and AES Ministries on Aug. 23. She will attend the ecumenical church service at the Threshing Bee this month, and Deacon Lyla will be leading worship at Augustana. SWMN Synod will host a ZOOM meeting titled "Stewardship 101" on Sept. 14 from 6:00-7:30 pm. The topic will address stewardship in smaller congregations and is a free resource the church can utilize. Pastor Mandy has been working on the confirmation curriculum, which will begin in Sept., and will be planning a parent meeting soon. She also made numerous hospital and home visits during the month.

AES Ministries: Sign-up sheets are available for the spaghetti supper on Sept. 21. Volunteers are being asked to help serve and/or bring a dessert. Proceeds will be split equally between the two churches. Sandy will check with the Chamber and add the event to the Chamber email blast.

Education Committee Report: Blessing of the Backpacks will be held during the Aug. 30 church service. Registration for ROAR will be open Aug. 23 through Sept. 13. Rally Sunday is planned for Sept. 27 as a joint service at Augustana. ROAR will begin Sept. 30 from 6:00-7:00 pm. The theme for the year is "You are God's Masterpiece." The Christmas program is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 20, with Dec. 23 as the backup date. A potluck winter party is planned for Jan. 6. The Easter Egg Hunt will again be held on Palm Sunday, March 21, at East. An End-of-the-year party is planned for April 7. The class schedule for Lent has yet to be determined.

Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee Report: The committee did not meet.

Worship, Music & Technology Report: August 23 church service will be held at Memorial Park at 10:30 am, with the new choir singing. Ideas were discussed for holding church services at different locations including the VFW, followed by the Vikings game, and holding a full church service at the nursing home.

Finance Committee Report: The Finance Committee will review the Giving Report.

Property/Cemetery Committee Report: The committee has been working on air-conditioning issues in Pastor Mandy's office. The Churchmen's Group donated the cost of a new air conditioner for her office, and Pastor Mandy expressed her appreciation. Thank you was extended to Andy, who stated that he would donate his time to repair the uneven sidewalks.

Youth Committee Report: The youth played Bingo at the nursing home. Sandy thanked James and Pastor Mandy for running the event. The committee is looking at signing students up for the early-bird discount for those attending the National Youth Gathering. Preformed cookie dough fundraiser sales will begin at the end of August. The youth will help with God's Work. Our Hands Sunday and at the spaghetti supper fundraiser also in Sept. Future events include: Oct. 4-Bingo at the nursing home, Oct. 23-Halloween Party, Nov. 18-Thanksgiving dinner, Dec. 6-Bingo at the nursing home and Christmas caroling from 3-4:30 pm. *(continued)*

Old Business:

- A. Survey-The church plans to send out approximately 167 surveys with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The goal is to have the surveys returned in Sept. The surveys will be anonymous and marked only with a number. Terry is willing to compile the data. The hope is to then have Pastor Troy from SWMN Synod return to explain the results.
- B. God's Work. Our Hands Sunday will be Sept. 13. Following worship, members will work at Mount Hope Cemetery. Planned projects include washing monuments, spraying weeds, filling in settled monuments, and completing a dormant grass seeding. Terry stated that he would donate the cost of the grass seed and spray as a memorial to his father, Myron.
- C. Employee Reviews-Terry will send reviews to Lauren, Karen, Heidi, and Deanna and will schedule the reviews in Oct.

New Business:

- A. Upcoming special services-Reformation Sunday-Oct. 25 and Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service-Nov. 22
- B. Stewardship Ideas-Everyone is encouraged to bring forward any ideas regarding stewardship.
- C. Church clean up day-The council discussed holding a spring and fall deep-cleaning day. A date will be determined.
- D. Other business-Terry ordered council members a book titled *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*. He felt there were many similarities between the situations described in the book and Augustana. Council members were asked to read the book and share their thoughts.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 9:04 pm following discussion of the above items, and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jill Beckius

Augustana WELCA board meeting minutes – July 23, 2026

Those present: Nancy Kunkel, LeeAnn Nibbe, Jeanne Miest and Pastor Mandy.

We are still looking for any volunteers to join the WELCA board.

The meeting began with the treasurer's report from LeeAnn for April, May and June. We agreed to pay for a new hose to water flowers for \$40 and the \$500 bill for the elevator maintenance as well as other unexpected small bills that may come up to help the church budget. We also agreed to give \$100 to the Mumbai Mission for ongoing expenses.

We discussed the upcoming events:

Annual Women's Night Out will be held August 5th at River's Edge at 5:30 p.m. All women of AES are invited. Hosted by Rebecca Circle.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 13th where the congregation is planning to cleanup at the cemetery. The Bakeless Bake Sale date was set for October 4th since that's when we switch to early services. WELCA will serve brunch following the service and collect \$ for the Neighborhood Pantry. LeeAnn will apply for a Thrivent card for this event.

October 21st was tentatively scheduled for the Brandt Ridge/Prairie View game day at 2:00 if that works for the facility. Again, the confirmation kids will assist in wrapping prizes and helping that day. Nancy will apply for a Thrivent card for prizes and lunch for the residents.

We are thinking about sending our recently graduated students a little gift from their church family to remind them we are praying for them and wishing them the best as they start a new chapter.

Looking ahead, we are hosting the community Thanksgiving service this year on November 22nd so we will furnish pumpkin pie for all guests.

St. Lucia will be December 12th this year so planning begins soon.

We look forward to ways that WELCA can assist the church in whatever ways we can.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Miest, temporary secretary

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

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Address correction requested.



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 13TH – God's Work. Our Hands.

Communion Worship ~ 9:00 am East Sveadahl 10:30 am Augustana

SEPTEMBER 27TH – Rally Sunday for ROAR

Joint Worship ~ 10:00 am Augustana

Lunch for All & Activities for Youth following Worship

AES MINISTRIES

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