

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Church,

As I write this column, there is great pain happening in our world. I sometimes find myself feeling a great weight as I sit in my office - comfortable, privileged, and safe - knowing parts of the world are literally burning from bombs and violence. It's always been that way though, hasn't it? Joy and comfort existing simultaneously with pain and oppression. It's the paradox we live in. Some are celebrating new babies and engagements in one part of the world while others are starving and losing their homes to missiles in another part.

What should our Christian response be to the suffering in our world right now? The flag outside my office is flying at half-staff due to political violence in our own state. The people in Gaza are literally starving to death. Political leaders are boasting about dropping bombs. Immigrants are living in constant fear. What does the Bible say about how Christians should respond when our neighbors are in dire circumstances?

The answer is empathy. Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of another, is a profound biblical principle that reflects the heart of Christian compassion and love. The Scriptures call believers to empathize with those who suffer, following the example of Jesus Christ, who demonstrated perfect empathy during His earthly ministry.

Empathizing with the suffering involves both emotional and practical responses. Christians are called to listen, understand, and share in the pain of others, offering comfort and support. This may involve prayer, providing for physical needs, or simply being present with those who are hurting.

The Church, as the body of Christ, is called to be a community of empathy, where people support one another in times of trial. Hebrews 13:3 reminds believers to "Remember those in prison as if you were bound with them, and those who are mistreated as if you were suffering with them." This verse encourages believers to identify with the suffering of others, fostering a spirit of unity and compassion. Empathy requires us to step outside of ourselves and to place our attention on others. This can be challenging due to the fact that we are constantly being fed a narrative of self-perseverance, but nonetheless, empathy is the call of the Christian. How can we as a church foster a spirit of empathy? What tangible things can we do to show that we are breaking along those who are broken, weeping with those who weep, and accompanying those who are fleeing?

The weight I am feeling right now as I find myself in a position of privilege, safety and comfort is what I believe to be the Holy Spirit calling me to action. Will you take action with me? I am dreaming of organizing an action group within the church to really focus on this idea of empathetic movements to help our neighbors. Will this offend some people? Probably. Is it worth it? Absolutely. After all, Jesus Christ Himself offended a whole bunch of people - all the way to the cross. Let us stand with the marginalized and let us proclaim God's inclusive love to all God's people.

In Christ,
Pastor Mandy

AUGUSTANA - July

CIRCLES

Circles don't meet in July or August.

USHERS

John Coleman, Andrew Farr, Stan Kunkel,
Kyla & Kaitlyn Schlomann, Adrian Rodriguez-Farr

LECTORS

July 6: Lisa Carlson
13: Les Zellmann
20: Terry Engel
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.

ALTAR GUILD

Becky Schmidt, Jean Leopold,
Carol Zarn, Jill Beckius

MEMORIALS

None to report

COMMUNION SERVERS

July 6: Sandy Berg & Jeff Price
13: Lynn Watson & Bob Moll

NOISY OFFERING

Noisy Offering will be on Sunday, July 27th.
Donations will go to CADA

GREETERS

June 6: Lisa Carlson
13: Les & Kristi Zellmann
20: Bill & Kirsten Freitag
27: Deanna Hoffman

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Churchmen's Group

AUGUSTANA - July

TRANSITIONS

Baptism

We welcomed **Lakelynn Jane & Oliver Troy Westman**, son and daughter of Ryan & Harley Westman, into God's Family and AES Ministries on June 22, 2025.

Please continue to keep Lakelynn and Oliver and their family in your prayers as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Funerals

Lorraine Petersen passed away May 25, 2025.
Her funeral was May 31, 2025.

May God's peace comfort her 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 2025. Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month, and the first two of the four 5th Sundays of 2025. To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

July 27th: 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.

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

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

EAST**TRANSITIONS**

A family graveside service was held for **Theresa Kae Olson**, daughter of Erland and LaVonne Olson, on Thursday, June 17, 2025. She was born March 10, 1962 and passed away August 21, 2024. May God's peace comfort her family and friends.

Lowell Bean was buried on Friday, June 13, 2025.

ADDRESS CHANGE

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

Needed through May	\$38,370.85
Received through May	not received
Behind through May	- \$ not received
Received in May	\$ 1,795.61

USHERS

Mariah Grunewald

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lorita Nasman and Lynette Noren

VISITING COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll and Cathy Anderson

STEWARDSHIP
Never ends !!

Joyfulness keeps the heart and
face young.

A good laugh makes us better
friends with ourselves and
everybody around us.

~ Orison Swett Marden

EAST**LECTORS**

July 6: Dale Anderson
13: Leigh Rolshoven
20: Tricia Anderson
27: Cathy Anderson

RADIO BROADCASTS

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

RADIO SPONSORS

Sponsors needed for these broadcasts:

July 13:
August 10:
August 31:
September 14:
October 12:
November 9:
December 14:

If you would like to sponsor any of these broadcasts for 2025, please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00.

Happy Birthday Happy Baptism

1 Michael Forsyth 10-10
Andrea Rubishko 9-29
2 Lyla Klee
3 Jana Falk 8-6
10 Steven Noren 9-11
12 Paul Torkelson 9-07
13 Richard Andrews 10-28
18 Keegan Hodgden 8-11
19 Lynette Noren
20 Preston Anderson 8-10
21 Brianna Kilmer 8-20
22 Lori Newberg 8-28
24 Quinn Anderson 10-01
28 Simon Beck 8-20
Adam Johnson 8-19

Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan.



AES JULY NEWS



Vacation Bible School – July 21st – 24th

VBS will be held July 21st – July 24th at Augustana Lutheran Church from 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

Children are encouraged to go to Armstrong or High School to Kids Kafe for lunch.

There will be an ending program on Thursday the 11th at 6:30 pm at Augustana.

All are welcome to attend!

~ Bible Study – July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Bible study will resume on these Mondays in July – 7, 14, 21, 28 from 3-4 pm at East. All are welcome!

~ July 4th Worship Service – Lake Hanska Park – July 6th

Lake Hanska and Faith Lutheran of Madelia invite you to their Annual 4th of July Worship Service on July 6th at Lake Hanska County Park above the swimming beach – 9:00 am coffee time, 10:00 am communion worship. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. In case of rain, the service is at Lake Hanska Lutheran Church. Rides will be available to the shelter area for those needing assistance.

~ Ladies Luncheon – July 30th

Save the Date! Women of Augustana & East Sveadahl (all ages) are invited to a women's luncheon on Wednesday, July 30th at River's Edge Grill at 12:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

~ Joint Worship Service and Annual Picnic – August 10th

The annual joint worship service and picnic is at East Sveadahl at **10:00 AM on Sunday, August 10**. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

~ Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during my virus. A special thanks to Pastor Mandy and Lyla. Also to WELCA and Martha Circle. – Blessings, Judy Berg

Many Thanks for the well wishes from my Church Family, the visit from Pastor Mandy, and the Sewing Ladies for the beautiful Prayer Shawl. – John Coleman

FINANCIAL FACTS		MAY 2025
	May	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 9,871.36	\$ 69,287.50
Total Expenses	- \$ 14,644.65	\$ 81,670.43
	- \$ 4,773.29	- \$ 12,382.93

May wasn't a good month. As you can see, the Month and Year-to-Date total is growing more in the negative, as we move into summer when giving is typically lower, 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

~ Watonwan County Relay for Life – September 20th

This year's event will be held Saturday, September 20th. Save the date!

~ Green Lake's Quilt Auction – July 11th – 12th

Proceeds from this event support Green Lake's Annual Fund which allows them to provide fun, safe, quality, Christ-centered camping and retreating opportunities for people of all ages.

Enjoy the Quilt Review and Makers Market, Silent Auction, Quilt Trunk Show, Paint-Your-Own Barn Quilt, hotdish supper, and Beachfront Concert on Friday; and the Quilt Review and Makers Market, Paint-Your-Own Barn Quilt, Live Auction, and pulled pork lunch on Saturday. Fresh doughnuts and concessions available throughout the weekend. Online bidding is available as well.

Learn more at www.gllm.org/quilt-auction.

AES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 5, 2025

Members present: Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, Janet Bloomquist, Lisa Carlson, Pete Christenson, Heidi Engel, Lori Urevig, Pr. Mandy, and Susan Anderson

Members absent: Nicole Meyer

Visitors present: None

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Lori Urevig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at East. Lori welcomed all and thanked everyone for their service. A quorum was present.

No member concerns were presented.

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

Tom made a motion to accept the March minutes. Sandy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- ~ Jim Harrington resigned his position on the AES Council and the Augustana Church Council. The Augustana Council appointed Nicole Meyer to fill out Jim's term on the AES Council.
- ~ Holy Week went well. Easter Sunday service times need to be visited. Attendance was low at the services and breakfasts this year.
- ~ Pr. Mandy is very pleased with the Youtherans group. Attendance grew thru the year.
- ~ There are 70 children, aged 5 – 5th grade, registered for Vacation Bible School. This number is down from previous years because the age parameters changed. VBS is July 21-24 at Augustana.
- ~ There are a number of summer events planned for AES youth: June 25th – ecumenical event (Presbyterian, First Lutheran, AES) at East for 6-8th graders from 7-10 pm; August 7 – pool party for all youth and their families; and August 9 – campout at East.
- ~ *All Creation Sings*, a new hymnal, will be used for worship beginning June 15th.
- ~ The Study Group continues to meet during the summer. Pr. Mandy is looking into having more and different groups beginning in the fall.
- ~ The Synod Assembly is June 6-7 at Gustavus. Our delegates are Tom Anderson and Jim and Shirley Moody. Pr. Mandy will be on the Synod Council for the coming year.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- ~ The AES Picnic is August 10th, 10:00 am at East.
Augustana is in charge of the meat and condiments. East will provide salads, dessert, and beverages. The service will be inside. There will be no band this year. The informal service will have our members participate in the worship service. The Education Committee will ask youth to participate; Lisa Shellum and Lori Urevig will ask ROAR kids to sing; and Janet Bloomquist and Heidi Engel will put together a joint choir. The Education Committee would like to know by July 10th who will be participating in the service. A date will be set for a practice.
- ~ Stewardship Efforts
Both churches are not meeting their budgets. Stewardship should be ongoing for everyone and needs to be talked about. AES Council members will bring this back to their councils. Each council then can speak to their congregation about being good stewards.
- ~ Deacon Lyla – 60 years in ministry
Deacon Lyla is being honored at the Synod Convention for her 60 years in ministry. She is the only woman to be honored in this group. She was a trail blazer and instrumental in promoting women in the ministry! We will be honoring her at the Joint Service on June 29th at Augustana.
The next meeting is September 4th, 7:00 pm at Augustana unless a need arises to meet sooner.
Thank you to Lynne and Leigh Rolshoven for the treats.
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm by Sandy and seconded by Janet. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

EAST SVEADAHN COUNCIL MINUTES -- JUNE 12, 2025

The East Sveadah Church Council met on Thursday, June 12 at 7 pm. Those present were Dale Anderson, Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Lori Urevig, Cindy Torkelson, Pastor Mandy, and Susan Anderson.

Absent: Sonja Coleman

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

Pastor Mandy opened with prayers brought forth by the council.

Secretary, Janet, read the May 8, 2025 minutes. They were approved as read.

In the absence of Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary, no report was given. Kris Suess, Treasurer, presented her report. A motion by Wayne, seconded by Cindy, and passed to approve the report as presented.

Tom presented the bills with approval to pay by the council.

A discussion took place on the noisy offerings for April and May. A motion by Lori, seconded by Janet, and passed to round off the \$147.23 that was given to \$150.00 divided 50-50 with St. James and LaSalle Fire Departments.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Synod Assembly went well. Deacon Lyle was recognized for 50 years of ordination. She was a leader in the ordaining of women into the ministry. AES will be honoring her at the joint worship service at Augustana on June 29.
- There will be a graveside service on June 17 for Teresa Kae Olson.
- June 25 is an ecumenical youth event from 7-10 at East. A bonfire and S'mores will be part of the fun.
- June 30 our youth leave for Bible Camp. The donations for camp were very successful. Thanks to all who donated

AES REPORT: Lori reported on the meeting and see complete report in newsletter.

SUSAN'S REPORT: She was able to locate stencils for our copy machine.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Work Day is Saturday, June 14. There is a long list of projects to be done inside and outside.
- Finalized AES picnic details.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

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

The next church council meeting will be July 10, 2025.

We closed with the Nicene Creed.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2025

Present: Sandy Berg, Jodi Coleman, John Coleman, Andy Freitag, Pastor Mandy, Darrick Miest, Bob Moll, Jeff Price, Dean Swenstad, Lynn Watson, Jill Beckius

Absent: Stan Kunkel, Nicole Meyer

Lynn called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Pr. Mandy opened the meeting with prayer.

Darrick made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May, and John seconded.

Reports:

Treasurer: Lauren presented the treasurer's report. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Jeff and seconded by Sandy.

Giving: Deanna presented the giving report. Deanna and Darrick have also been working on which would be more cost effective for offering envelopes - box or booklet.

Pr. Mandy's Report: SWMN Synod assembly was held this past weekend. The result of a vote was that compensation guidelines for rostered leaders were increased by 2.5%. The Synod office in Redwood Falls made the decision to rent out the office space because most meetings are now on Zoom. Pr. Mandy was voted on as a member of the Synod Council. VBS will be next month for students entering Kindergarten through completion of 5th grade. Currently there are 74 students registered.

AES Ministries: The date for the annual picnic will be Aug 10

Committee Reports:

Education - Did not meet this month.

Evangelism/Social Ministry - We are looking for individuals who would be willing to transport other members to and from church services. Also, we are considering the purchase of portable DVD players for members who are unable to view church services on Facebook. (continued on page 8)

Worship/Music/Technology - Members were invited by Terry and Heidi to practice using the new supplemental hymnal, *All Creation Sings*, which we will be starting next week, June 15. Terry will serve as the song leader. DVDs of our church services are being recorded and are now provided to both the nursing home and assisted living.

Finance - did not meet this month.

Property/Cemetery - Andy is hoping to attend to the sidewalk out front within the next few weeks, weather permitting.

Youth/Ministry - A big thank you to everyone who helped during coffee hour for Graduation Sunday. Also thank you to everyone who helped serve for the Baked Potato and Soup Fundraiser. We were able to raise \$984. Upcoming events: June 22 Bingo at Pleasant View at 2 pm, Project Campout Aug 9-10 for students grades 7-12, Aug 17 serving at the Threshing Bee, and Aug 24 Bingo at Pleasant View at 2 pm. Sandy is also working on a calendar of events for the upcoming year.

Old Business:

Stewardship: A discussion was held on the topic of stewardship.

Membership List/Church Directory: Darrick presented an AES church directory proposal (on behalf of Kinzee), which included estimated cost and timeline/dates. Jodi will also contact Lifetouch for pricing.

New Business:

AES picnic will be Aug 10. This year Augustana will provide the meat and condiments.

Joint Church service on June 29 at 10 am at Augustana. We will also celebrate Lyla's 60 years in the ministry with a lunch to follow the service.

New Member Sunday is Aug 3. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who may be interested in joining.

Curb Appeal - John and Jeanne Miest are attending the shrubs in front of the church. Thank you, John and Jeanne!

Other - Lynn mentioned that he is checking into an automatic soap dispenser for the dishwasher. Thank you, Lynn!

The Communion serving list was set up for the rest of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius