

AES MINISTRIES ~ AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Mandy France: 651-800-6672

Visitation Deacon Lyla Klee: (h) 507-439-6940 ~ (c) 507-227-9250

Augustana office: 375-4792 website: www.aeslutheran.org

Organist: Heidi Engel

Lector: Judy Thulien

Greeters: Greg & Judy Thulien

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026, 9:00 AM

"Congregations joined in faith and fellowship to spread God's love."

- AES Ministries mission statement

Welcome to all who worship with us today! All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

PRELUDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

LEFT COLUMN, ACS p. 29

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG

"Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

ACS #977

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con- verge a -
 breaks it - truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es

 all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

GREETING

ACS p. 30

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

ACS p. 31

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Glory to you, God"

ACS p. 31

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray....

C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: MICAH 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you

may know the saving acts of the Lord.”⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

L: Word of God, Word of Life. C: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 15

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,**

who speak the truth from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ACS p. 33

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY

“What Is the World Like”

ACS #1047

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

APOSTLE'S CREED

ACS p. 17

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYER'S OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your mercy . . .

C: Hear our Prayer . . .

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Offertory Hymn

"Thank You, Lord"

vs. 1 & 4, ACS #1092

A musical score for the hymn "Thank You, Lord". The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics for this staff are: 1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you, 2 Been so good, been so good, been so good, 3 Been my friend, been my friend, been my friend, 4 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord, love you. The bottom staff is in bass clef and has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics for this staff are: Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord. good, I just want to thank you, Lord. friend, I just want to thank you, Lord. Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord. The music includes various note values and rests, with a repeat sign and endings indicated.

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Here at Augustana we are committed to the inclusion of all God's people, with no exception. Therefore, we practice open communion, welcoming all to the table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Juice (light color) and wine (dark red) are both available. Individually

wrapped gluten free wafers are available as well. If you would like to receive communion, but are unable to physically come forward, please indicate that to an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Great Thanksgiving

ACS p. 36

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

Congregation Responds: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

ACS p. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words Of Institution

ACS p. 37, C

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might

evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.

Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.

Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.

In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.

Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,

so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,

you embrace the dead.
 Send forth your Spirit
 and renew the face of the earth.
 Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
 the body and blood of Christ.
 Give us a future that trusts in you
 and cares for your earth.
 Empowered by your promises,
 we rise from our deaths
 to praise you again:
 The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

The Lord's Prayer

ACS p. 39

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the table

“Be Known to Us, Lord”

ACS p. 40

Be known to us, Lord Je-sus, in the break-ing of the bread.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.
 Be known to us, Lord Je-sus, in the break-ing of the bread.



Distribution
Post Communion Prayer

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Build a Longer Table”

ACS #1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel-come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

DISMISSAL P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Concerns: *The Family and Friends of Terry “Cub” Watson, The Family and Friends of Suzann Olson, Lucy Christenson Lindsey Kulseth, Dean Hoffman, Brandon Hagen, Debbie McGuire, Roger Hagen, Nolan O’Connor, Judy Berg, Darrell Ask, Dennis Johnson, Mike Larson, Jamie (Noren) Seiner, Marie Christenson, Darryl Jensen, Phyllis Jurgens, Dave Finnegan, Tim Knaak, Don Flater, Bruce Ohland, Sam Christenson, Melissa Anderson, Steven Olson, Tom Anderson, Chloe Anderson, Orval Larson, Dennis Madison, Linda Madison, and Emma Overson.*

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #44528. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

General Offering: \$ 1,923.00
Special Gift: \$ 8,500.00
Vanco/Online Offering: \$ <u>105.00</u>
Total Offering for January 25th: \$10,528.00
Amount needed each week is \$3,572.94 to make budget.

Activities this week: February 2 – February 8

Monday 3:00 pm – (E) Study Group
Tuesday 9:30 am – (A) Rebecca Circle
2:15 pm – Augustana worship on cable tv
Wednesday 9:00 am – (A) Martha Circle
5:30 pm – (A) ROAR Meal
6:00 pm – (A) ROAR / Confirmation
Saturday 9:00 am – 11:00 am – (A) Council planning Session
Sunday 9:00 am – (A) Communion Worship, Installation of Council Members
10:00 am – (A) Coffee Hour
10:30 am – (E) Communion Worship, Installation of Council Members
11:30 am – Radio Broadcast on 1370AM

Church Announcements

- † A Celebration of Life was held for **Suzann Olson** on Saturday, January 31st at 12:00 pm at Augustana. Suzann passed away on January 22nd, 2026.
- † A Celebration of Life will be held for **Terry “Cub” Watson** on Friday, February 6th at 3:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church St. James. Terry passed away on January 22, 2026.
- † The **Watonwan Community Cares group is taking donations** to assist immigrant families in need in our community. Items needed include but not limited to: baby diapers, formula, food, and financial support. Donations can be dropped off at First Presbyterian. Any questions, you can contact Alison Kulseth or Pastor Mandy.

- † The Council Planning Meeting will be held Saturday, February 7th from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.
***Council Members, please plan to be there as this will be our monthly council meeting.**
- † AES Youth Super Bowl Appetized Fundraisers are due TODAY! Order forms are available in the church office or by the bulletins, payment is required with each order. Completed forms may be returned to the church office or placed in the back mailbox labeled “Youth.” For questions, please contact Sandy Berg at (507) 381-8903.
- † Grades 6 – 12 are invited to a Bowling/Pizza Party in Springfield, Sunday, Feb. 22 from 3-7 pm. Cost is \$10 each. Each youth is also able to invite 1 friend for \$10 each. Contact Sandy Berg to sign up. Deadline to sign-up is Sunday, February 8th.
- † Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 18th. There will be Ashes-to-Go on the corner of Armstrong Blvd N, and Weston Ave from 12:00 – 1:00 pm.
*There will also be Communion Worship at 6:30 pm at East Sveadahl.
- † Today is the last day to sign up your child for Bible Camp for a Early Bird Fee!