

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadah1 Lutheran Churches

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear AES Ministries members,

Over the past several months, our churches (Augustana and East Sveadah1) have experienced significant financial strain. While we have been blessed by the faithfulness, generosity, and service of so many members, our monthly expenses are currently exceeding our giving, creating a growing challenge for our ministry and mission.

If our weekly giving continues at its current level, we will not be able to sustain our ministry in the future. We prayerfully ask each member to take a deeper look at their giving and consider increasing their weekly offering by 4% or more.

While 4% may seem small, if everyone participates, the impact would be significant and help ensure that our ministry continues to serve our church family and community.

We believe God is still at work among us. We see lives being touched, faith being nurtured, children learning about Jesus, and our congregation serving as a beacon of hope in our community. Together, we can ensure that these ministries continue not only for today, but for future generations.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration, faithful support, and prayers.

With prayerful hope and thanksgiving,
AES Church Council

AUGUSTANA - July

CIRCLES

Circles don't meet in July or August.

USHERS

Lynn Watson, Jayne Anderson,
Kristen Gertsema, Jim Harrington

LECTORS

July 5: Lisa Carlson
12: Les Zellmann
19: Terry Engel
26: 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

Nancy Kunkel, Bonnie Reid, Leann Nibbe,
Barb Price, Marilyn Hedlund

MEMORIALS

None to report

COMMUNION SERVERS

July 5: Jodi Coleman
12: Bob Moll

NOISY OFFERING

Noisy Offering will be on Sunday, July 26th.

GREETERS

June 5: Lisa Carlson
12: Les & Kristi Zellmann
19: Bill & Kirsten Freitag
26: Deanna Hoffman

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Churchmen's Group

AUGUSTANA - July

TRANSITIONS

Funerals

Myron Engel passed away June 2, 2026.
His funeral was June 12, 2026.

May God's peace comfort his 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 2025. To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

July 26th: 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

AUGUSTANA CHOIR

Join Augustana choir! No age requirement and all people are welcome. Contact Maya Kulseth if you are interested. 507-621-3905

CHURCH CLOSED

Augustana Church will be closed
July 2nd, July 14th, July 16th.

EAST

TRANSITIONS

Morgan ValerieAnn Bohlin and Cole Mark Hanson were married at East on Saturday, May 30, 2026. May God richly bless them as they begin their life together.

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

Needed through May	\$33,933.35
Received through May	23,310.52
Behind through May	- \$10,622.83
Received in May	\$ 6,027.75

USHERS

Mariah Grunewald

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll and Cathy Anderson

VISITING COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll

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 5: Lee Carlson
12: Wes Beck
19: Mariah Grunewald
26: Tom Anderson

RADIO BROADCASTS

July 5: First Lutheran, St. James
12: East
19: First Lutheran, St. James
26: Augustana

RADIO SPONSORS

Sponsors needed for these broadcasts:

July 12: Dale and Deb Anderson
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.

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
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.



~ Save the Date – August 4th

Save the Date! Tuesday, August 4th from 7-9 pm there will be an AES Youth Pool Part at the Saint James Outdoor Pool! Youth ages 10 and under will need an adult to accompany them.

~ Ladies Luncheon – 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. RSVP's 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!

~ Bible Camp

These 12 AES Youth will be attending bible camp at Lake Shetek July 19-24: *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.* We have never had all our youth attend the week long camp before so this is very exciting! Keep these youth in your thoughts and prayers as they participate in all that Lake Shetek has to offer!

Thank You for Supporting Our Youth at Shetek Summer Camp 2026!

~ Joint Worship Service and Annual Picnic – August 9th

The annual joint worship service and picnic is at East Sveadahl at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 9. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

~ Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse

Lorita is doing a kickoff for Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse! She is asking everyone in AES Ministries to bring something to place in a shoe box from now until the ending date July 25th -- Christmas in July. There will be a large box in the meeting room at East, a box in the front narthex at Augustana (both marked "Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse Box"), or you can contact her with a financial donation.

Here is a link to some ideas: [Official Shoebox Gift Suggestions](#). She will also have a list posted on the door of the meeting room where the box will be on the table. Merry Christmas in July! Her goal is 50 boxes again this year, let's do this AES!

****NO:** soap; candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

~ Augustana Congregational Financial Update Meeting

Augustana will be having an informational financial update on Sunday, July 26th following worship service. More information to follow.

~ Thank You

I would like to say a Huge thank you to all who helped celebrate my graduation both here at East and at my graduation party! Also to those who sent cards to my home. Thank you so much for such a wonderful quilt! It will go with me wherever I go! Having your love and support means so much to me. I appreciate every single one of you. Erick Avila

The Avila family would like to thank each and everyone who congratulated our son Erick on his graduation. Thank you to those who sent cards! Your love and encouragement has not gone unnoticed! Thank you, Jose, Dana, Daniel, Erick, Vincent, Ezra, Lyla, and Cruz Avila

Thank you to Augustana WELCA for the generous birthday gift you sent me. I am thankful for all you do in the church and for your kindness! Thank you! Pastor Mandy

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who donated to help send our youth to summer camp at Shetek through the Bless a Camper Campaign. Your generosity and support have made it possible for these 12 young people to experience a meaningful week of faith, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Your thoughtfulness and willingness to give others this opportunity is a true blessing, and your impact will be felt long after camp has ended.

Thank you for believing in our youth and for supporting this important ministry. We deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” Psalm 10

With sincere gratitude, Trish Anderson and the youth attending Shetek Summer Camp 2026

On behalf of Augustana Church, we are extremely grateful for the time and resources of Saint James Electric for installing our new eternal candle in the sanctuary. It is a beautiful addition to our worship space and will serve us well for years to come. Augustana Property Committee

	FINANCIAL FACTS	MAY 2025
	June	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 9,177.90	\$ 67,125.72
Total Expenses	- \$ 13,533.74	\$ 85,544.92
	- \$ 4,355.84	- \$ 18,419.20

June 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

~ Green Lake's Quilt Auction – July 24th – 25th

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.

SPECIAL AES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES – June 15, 2026

Members present: Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, Heidi Engel, James Joosten, Lynn Rolshoven, Kyla Schlomann, Lori Urevig, Pr. Mandy, and Susan Anderson

Member absent: Wayne Jurgens

Chairman Kyla Schlomann called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm at Augustana.

The Council went into closed session.

At 8:30 pm the meeting opened with a discussion about the Spaghetti Supper. A motion was made by Sandy Berg to make these changes: instead of ice cream there will be a free will donation dessert buffet and there will be no Bake Sale, seconded by Lynne Rolshoven. Motion carried.

Tickets were also discussed. It was decided we would make our own.

Heidi Engel made the motion to adjourn, seconded by James Joosten. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

AES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 4, 2026

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

Members absent: Kyla Schlomann

In the absence of Chairman Kyla Schlomann, Tom Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:56 pm.

No member concerns were presented.

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

Lynne Rolshoven made a motion to accept the March minutes. Lori Urevig seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

~ There have been many in church and graveside funerals for our members since our last meeting. She has also presided at a number of funerals at the funeral home for those who have no affiliation with a church family.

~ She has officiated at one wedding at East.

~ Vacation Bible School is June 15-18 from 1-4 pm at First Presbyterian. There will be a program at 4:00 pm on Thursday at First Presbyterian. All are invited.

~ She held a parent meeting for those whose teens are going to the Nation Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. There are 10 youth who signed up to attend in July of 2027.

~ Pr. Mandy has begun planning for confirmation for 2026-2027.

(continued)

OLD BUSINESS:

- ~ Discussion was held and plans were made for the AES Spaghetti and Bake Sale Fundraiser.
 - + The date: Monday, September 21, 2026 from 5-8 pm at the Eagles Club.
 - + Tickets: Adults-\$12.00; 10 & under-\$8.00; 5 & under-free
 - + Menu: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Lettuce Salad, Garlic Toast, Ice cream
 - + Bake Sale: Baked goods from all willing AES members
- ~ Assignments
 - + Food preparation: Lynne Rolshoven, Sandy Berg
 - + Flyers/Distribution: Sandy, Lori Urevig
 - + Tickets: James Joosten
 - + Parade: Tom, Lori, Lynne

NEW BUSINESS:

- ~ The AES Joint Picnic is Sunday, August 9, 2026, 10:00 am at East. East is responsible for the meat; Augustana is responsible for the sides
- ~ An ELCA sabbatical is an extended, paid leave granted to rostered leaders (pastors or deacons) to rest, spiritually recharge, and focus on professional development. It is not a standard vacation; rather, it is intentional time away designed to prevent burnout and bring renewed energy and perspective back to the congregation. Sabbatical Leave, per ELCA guidelines, for Pr. Mandy is July 11th (after the Youth Gathering) through October 11th, 2027. This is not a medical leave. Though she did not receive the grant, she will still be on sabbatical leave. During these three months, she is not available for any church functions (weddings, funerals, baptisms, visitations, youth events, etc.) The Council discussed ways to fill the Sunday worship calendar. The church councils will be informed of the plans discussed for her sabbatical. Further plans will be made after council input. Concrete plans will be in place for the months when she is gone.
- ~ The ELCA has Congregational Mission Grants that are available for congregations to use in a variety of creative ways. The Joint Council will look into applying for a Grant in 2027.
 - The next AES Council meeting is August 6th at 7:00 pm at East. The Spaghetti Fundraiser will be finalized.
 - The Joint Council will also meet September 3rd at 7:00 pm at Augustana to work on plans for the sabbatical.
 - Heide Engel made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Wayne Jurgens. Motion passed.
 - The meeting ended at 8:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.
 - Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

EAST SVEADAHL COUNCIL MINUTES -- June 11, 2026

The East Sveadah Church Council met on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Dale Anderson, Julene Hoffman, Lori Urevig, Sonja Coleman, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Kris Suess

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order and 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 May 14, 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 Dale, and passed to approve the reports as presented.

Outstanding bills were presented and approved to pay.

(continued)

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- The August AES youth campout at East is being planned.
- Tuesday, August 4 the Education group has rented the outdoor swimming pool with ROAR funds for youth to have fun from 7 – 9 p.m.
- VBS begins on Monday June 15. On Thursday, June 18, at 4 p.m. there is a special program for all to attend.
- There will be a funeral service on June 30 for a former member at East.

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

AES REPORT: See full report in the newsletter.

SUSAN'S REPORT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

~ The AES fundraiser is underway and will be held at the Eagles on September 21. Save the date!

NEW BUSINESS: None

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

The next church council meeting will be July 9, 2026.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – June 10, 2026

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

Absent: Nick Dannhoff, Nicole Meyer

Terry called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Member Concerns:

Maya Kulseth joined the council meeting to discuss restarting the church choir. Maya would serve as the choir director, and Cec would be the accompanist. The choir would be open to all ages. A start date has not yet been determined. Interested individuals may contact Maya for additional information.

Prayer concerns:

Council members shared prayer concerns. Pastor Mandy opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sandy, seconded by Jodi. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Lauren presented the Treasurer's Report. WELCA donated the SWMN Synod commitment. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the church's financial status. The council plans to proceed with the congregation's recommendation following the quarterly meeting this Sunday, June 14.

Giving Report:

Deanna presented the Giving Report. A motion to approve both the Treasurer's report and Giving report was made by Sandy and seconded by Bob. Motion carried.

Pastor Mandy's Report:

Pastor Mandy reported that she has officiated 2 funerals for non-members since the last meeting and has another funeral scheduled for Friday. The first walking club event had a good turnout. The next walk is scheduled for June 28 at 6 pm. All are welcome to join. Jodi Coleman, Tom Anderson, and Pastor Mandy attended the Synod Assembly. The theme, "Grounded in Hope," provided a timely and encouraging message. Bishop Jon Anderson contacted Pastor Mandy regarding bringing a group of students to visit and discuss rural ministry, including its benefits and challenges. VBS begins next week and will be held at First Presbyterian Church.

(continued)

AES Ministries:

Planning has begun for a Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser, scheduled for Monday, September 21, from 5-8 pm. Presale tickets will be available. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Takeout orders and delivery options will also be offered. The church picnic is scheduled for Aug 9. Augustana will provide the side dishes. Pastor Mandy's sabbatical is planned for (to begin) July 2027. Discussion was held regarding ways to provide worship leadership during the 12 Sundays of her sabbatical. AES Ministries is interested in applying for an ELCA Development Grant next year and is considering new ways to connect with and serve our neighbors.

Committee Reports:

Education - A pool party is scheduled for Aug 4 from 7 to 9 pm. The committee will meet next month to begin planning for the upcoming year.

Evangelism/Social Ministry - A sign-up sheet will be posted for volunteers to help restock shelves at the Neighborhood Food Pantry. The committee distributed flowers for Mother's Day and is planning a Father's Day gift.

Worship/Music - A worship service in the park is scheduled for Aug 23. The committee continues to revise the usher schedule and hopes to include youth ushers paired with adult members.

Finance - The committee continues to review the church's financial status.

Property/Cemetery - The Eternal Candle project in the sanctuary has been completed. Andy repaired a leak near the back steps. AED devices were inspected and found to be in good working order. John will have the fire extinguishers inspected and refilled if needed. The boiler will need to be inspected again during the heating season. The committee hopes to have the winter-kill areas in the cemetery reseeded this fall.

Youth - The youth committee thanked everyone who purchased hanging flower baskets. A total of 67 baskets were sold, raising \$670. They also sold 13 beef stick bouquets for Father's Day. The committee plans to register for the Rail Run next year. Bingo at the nursing home has been rescheduled for July 12. This year's service project will involve cleanup following the Watonwan County Fair. Additional upcoming events:

Bingo-Aug 2; Pool party-Aug 4; Project Camp out-Aug 8-9 (if at least 10 students register); Bake Potato Bar-Oct 7; Cookie dough sale-planning underway

Old Business

Security/Cameras - John Coleman has offered to donate the funds necessary to purchase a Blink camera system through Amazon.

New Business

Quarterly Meeting - The quarterly congregational meeting is scheduled for June 14 during coffee hour at 9 am. Discussion topics will include the church's financial situation and a plan moving forward, a church directory, and the process for determining active and inactive membership status.

God's work. Our hands - The annual service event will be held on Sept 13. Proposed projects include cleaning cemetery headstones and leveling uneven areas within the cemetery.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Jodi and seconded by Darrick. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm and concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

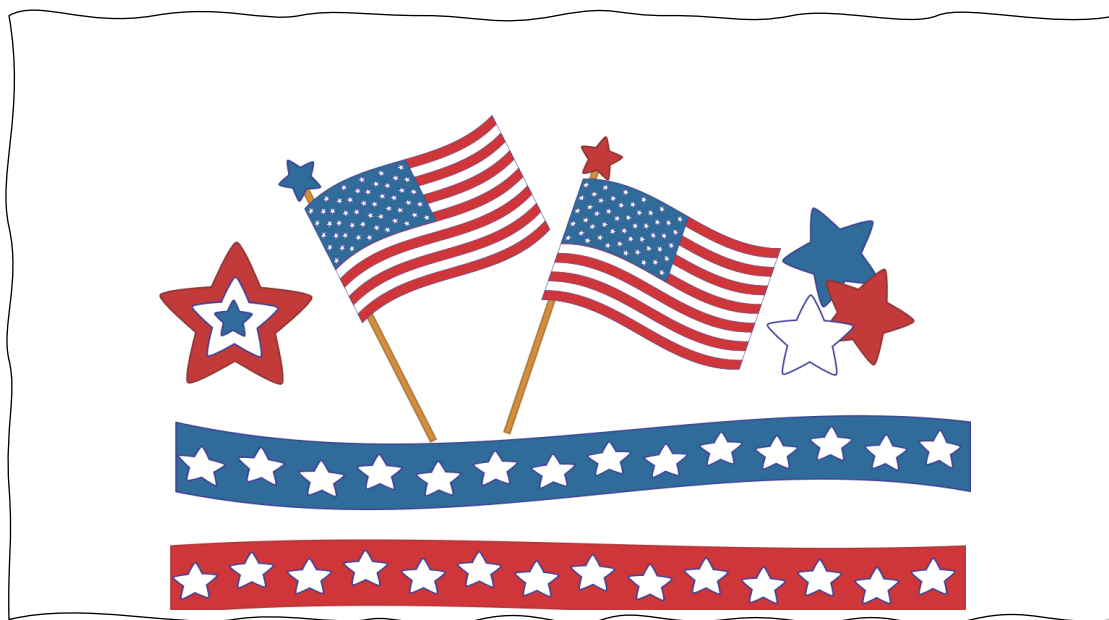
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JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



AES MINISTRIES
AUGUSTANA & EAST SVEAD AHL LUTHERAN CHURCHES
MANDY FRANCE, PASTOR Lyla Klee, VISITATION DEACON