

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

May 2026 Newsletter



ECUMENICAL
VBS
REGISTRATION



DATES OF VBS: JUNE 15TH - 18TH

LOCATION: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

AGES: 5 YEARS - 5TH GRADE

TIME: 1-4PM

EAST**TRANSITIONS:**

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through March	\$20,360.01
Received through March	\$11,658.81
Behind through March	- \$ 8,701.20
Received in March	\$ 4,742.27

NOISY OFFERING

May and June - Camperships

Happy Birthday
Happy Baptismal Date

- 2 Kaden Suggs [5-13]
- 12 Bev Lenning [6-19]
Ken Moll [6-10]
- 16 Isabella Garza [9-27]
- 17 Jared Bridges [7-28]
Chad Wolle [8-13]
- 22 Angela Noren [2-1]
- 25 Penny Schmidt [4-30]
- 26 Daxtyn Anderson [8-5]
- 29 Mercedes Lenning [8-20]
30 Pr. Mandy
- 31 Bailey Husby [8-25]

God always gives His best
to those who leave the choice to Him.

Patience is a quality that is most
needed when it is exhausted.

EAST**RADIO BROADCASTS**

May 3: First Lutheran, St. James
10: East Sveadahl
17: First Lutheran, St. James
24: Augustana
31: East Sveadahl

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Deb Anderson and Susie Carlson

VISITING COMMITTEE

Kris Suess and Cathy Anderson

USHERS

Bruce Sharp and JoAnn Gieseke

LECTORS

May 3: Evonne Moll
10: Wayne Jurgens
17: Cathy Anderson
24: Sonja Coleman
31: Kris Suess

RADIO SPONSORS

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast,
please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00 per Sunday.
May 10: Kris and Tom Suess
May 31:
June 14:
July 12:
August 9:
September 13:
October 11:



AUGUSTANA**CIRCLES**

May 4: 9:00 am Rebecca Circle
 6: 9:30 am Martha Circle
 19: 9:00 am Sewing Circle

USHERS

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

LECTORS

May 3: Kristen Gertsema
 10: Kari Miest
 17: Jim Moody
 24: Lisa Carlson
 31: Joint @ East

ALTAR GUILD

Becky Schmidt, Carol Zarn, Jill Beckius

MEMORIALS

In memory of Judy Berg
 \$40 – Campership Fund
 \$455 – Undesignated Memorial
 \$525 – AES Youth
 \$1025 – WELCA
 \$520 – Neighborhood Pantry
 \$400 - ROAR

In memory of Suzann Olson
 \$3,055 – Undesignated Memorial

In Memory of Randy Reid
 \$45 – Undesignated Memorial

COMMUNION SERVERS

May 3: Jill Beckius & Darrick Miest
 10: Nicole Meyer & James Joosten

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

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

RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.
 To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

May 24th: Available

AUGUSTANA**TRANSITIONS****TRANSFERS**

Jim & Jean Leopold – Hosanna Free Lutheran Church

FUNERALS

Randy Reid passed away on March 23, 2026.

Erik Anderson passed away on April 18, 2026.

May God's peace comfort their family and friends.

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: aeglutheran.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.

Thank You for the Easter Lilies and Mums:

Jim & Judy Anderson, Judy Sizer, Jodi & David Coleman, Eugene & Carol Zarn, Kari, Darrick, Kinzee, Jackson & Levi Miest, Roger & Mary Jo Hagen, Darrell & Leora Ask, Danny, Tara, Annika, Sawyer & Kaia Stepper, Lynn Watson, Chad & Tracey Gronewold, Emily Gronewold & Matt Westman, Heidi & Terry Engel and Philip Anderson.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Youth Committee

GREETERS

May 3: Stan & Nancy Kunkel
 10: Darrick & Kari Miest
 17: John & Jeanne Miest
 24: Eugene Zarn
 31: Joint @ East

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on:

Tuesday, May 19th

Monday, May 25th in Observance of Memorial Day



AES MAY NEWS



+ PASTOR MANDY

Pastor Mandy is gone April 27th to May 10th. She will return to the office May 11th. During this time period she will not be responding to emails or calls. Deacon Lyla Klee will be available for pastoral care emergencies. All emails and messages for Pastor Mandy will be seen on May 11th. Thank you for helping to honor her time away with family.

+ BLESS A CAMPER

BLESS A CAMPER is halfway through which means the countdown to camp is getting closer! Just a reminder: If you are able and wanting to help contribute to our youth to go to summer camp at Shetek Lutheran Ministries, please consider taking an envelope from the poster in the entry at East or by the Augustana Education doors. Our campers are eagerly waiting the countdown to camp and are very appreciative of YOUR support to make this happen. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tricia Anderson at 507-220-8236. Thank you!

BLESS A CAMPER campaign will end May 31. Any donations received after that will be added to next year's campaign for summer camp.

+ PAYMENT DUE - MAY 4

All forms and the first payment for the National Youth Gathering trip is due on Monday, May 4th. Payments can be made out to AES Youth and mailed to the church office, placed in the drop box in the back of Augustana or turned in during regular office hours.

+ SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY - MAY 17

Senior Recognition: AES Ministries will be recognizing our seniors on Sunday, May 17th at their church. A celebration will be held during each church's coffee hour. Everyone is welcome to celebrate with us! Congratulations Seniors: **Erick Avila, Jenavieve Knaack, Vivian Leach, Lydia Overson, Ava Spitzner, and Peyton Wolner.**

+ AES YOUTH BEEF STICK BOUQUET - FATHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER

Support the AES Youth by purchasing a Beef Stick Bouquet for just \$20.00! Start ordering baskets from May 1st – June 7th and bouquets will be available for pickup Sunday, June 14th at Augustana Church from 9 am – 12 pm unless other arrangements are made. Order forms can be found at each church entrance and in the church office. All orders must be completed in full with payment enclosed.

Return completed forms with payment to the church office, mailbox behind Augustana, or give them to Sandy Berg. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Berg – 507-381-8903.

+ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 15 - 18

VBS will be held June 15th – June 18th at First Presbyterian from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Those entering kindergarten through those who have completed 5th grade are invited to attend.

Registration is open through Monday, May 25th.

+ 2026 SWMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY - JUNE 5 - 6

The theme of the 2026 Synod Assembly is “Grounded in Hope”.

Members in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod will gather at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, MN. The Assembly will begin on Friday, June 5th and recess on Saturday, June 6th at 5 pm.

+ THANK YOUS

Thank You, East Sveadah! We appreciate your \$70 donation to our group and thank you for being a real “fur”end to the fur babies at our shelter!
Ann Hofstad, Watonwan County Humane Society

Sewing Circle, I want to thank you for making the nice blanket for me. I love it and pink is my favorite color! I really appreciate it!
My love, Audrey Steinle

The Chair people of Funeral Committee we would like to say a huge “Thank YOU” to all the bakers and workers who have assisted us at the funerals for our fellow Augustana Family members. Your participation has been a Blessing to the families and to your co-workers. If you would like to become part of this Awesome Team please leave a message in the church office and one of Committee Chairs will contact you.
Augustana Funeral Committee

Financial Facts	March	YTD	March 2026
Total Giving	\$ 7,781.35	\$ 41,553.82	
<u>Total Expenses</u>	- \$ 20,955.62	\$ 53,238.96	
	- \$ 13,174.27	- \$ 11,685.14	

This month included the quarterly payment for the Building Insurance and Workman’s Comp. Other areas that need our continued support include Radio Broadcast at \$40 per broadcast, Missionary support - \$20 per week, World Hunger, and Disaster Relief. Our balances are significantly in the red. Summer months are approaching when giving go down. Please prayerfully consider donating to help our church thrive!

Thank You to ALL for your continued support of Augustana.
Respectfully Submitted, Lauren Moll - Treasurer

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ MENTAL HEALTH - SUICIDE PREVENTION

May is designated as Mental Health Month. It was created in 1949 to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for all. In the spirit of the month, the ELCA recommends that all congregational and community leaders create and encourage a dialogue with congregation and community members about mental health awareness and the destigmatizing of mental illness. Nearly every person in the pews has been touched by mental illness in some way; individuals and families do not need to suffer in silence. Our faith communities can be an active and sympathetic sanctuary for people living with a mental illness, their family members, friends, advocates and allies. Help is available to you, and there is hope for all of us!

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 800-273-TALK (8255).

AES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES - Didn't meet in April

EAST SVEADAHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – April 9, 2026

The East Sveadahh Church Council met on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Dale Anderson, Julene Hoffman, Sonja Coleman, Susan Anderson and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Lori Urevig

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 Kris, and passed to approve the minutes for the East Council meeting on March 12, 2026 as printed in the March newsletter.

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

Tom asked for any outstanding bills.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Thanked everyone who helped with the Lenten services and suppers.
- Vacation Bible School registration will open next week. VBS includes AES Ministries, First Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches in St. James and will be held at First Presbyterian June 15-18.
- Pastor Mandy will be on vacation from April 27 – May 10. Deacon Lyla will lead the worship services on May 3 and May 10 at both churches and will be available during this time for any pastoral needs.
- Bishop Dee Peterson will be at the joint AES worship service at Augustana on Sunday, April 12. Following the service there will be a presentation by Bishop Dee on the South African trip she was a part of.
- Pastor Mandy will have a meeting for the youth interested in the National Youth gathering on Sunday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- We were reminded that the worship service times will change on Sunday, April 19. East will be at 9 a.m. and Augustana at 10:30 p.m.
- We will be honoring mothers on Sunday, May 10 following the worship service.
- Sunday, May 17, will be the Senior Recognition Sunday for our youth.
- May 30 there will be a wedding at East.

A discussion took place on the offerings from the Lenten suppers and services. A motion by Janet, seconded by Dale, and passed to donate the offerings to the St. James Ambulance Service (1/2 of the offering - \$357.50) and St. James Fire Department (1/4 of the offering - \$178.75) and LaSalle Fire Department (1/4 of the offering - \$178.75).

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

AES REPORT: No report. Next meeting for AES Council will be June 4 at Augustana

SUSAN'S REPORT:

New postcards are needed for the Birthday wishes to our members. Janet and Susan will order.

OLD BUSINESS:

The church rental rates and rules presented at the March council meeting were discussed. A motion by Julene, seconded by Kris, and passed to approve the Rules & Rates for the use of the church with a few changes. Entire rules and rates are on our website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reminder of AES doing a joint fund raiser in September. Further details will be given when the plans are finalized.

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

The next church council meeting will be May 14, 2026.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - April 8, 2026

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

Absent: Nicole Meyer, Bob Moll

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Treasurer's report: Lauren presented the Treasurer's report. She noted a glitch in the system in which pension and insurance under pastoral expenses was actually a 3-month payment covering February, March and April. Under administration expenses, electronic expenses include the Microsoft yearly membership fee and the monthly Vanco fee. Additional expenses included the Synod delegates registration fee. A discrepancy was noted between Lauren's and Deanna's reports. Envelope contributions were not included in Deanna's report, while Lauren's total income reflected all income, including envelope contributions. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jodi, following the correction of the discrepancy, seconded by John. All council members were notified the next day of the corrections by text message from Terry.

Giving report: Deanna presented the giving report.

Sandy shared devotions. Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made by Sandy, seconded by Jodi. Motion carried.

Pastor Mandy's report: Lent and Holy Week services were well attended, with 144 in attendance on Palm Sunday and 153 at Easter services. Positive feedback was received for both the Wednesday Lenten services and the ROAR program. During the past month, two funerals were held. Two additional funerals for non-members are scheduled for April 25 and June 10. On April 12, Bishop Dee Pederson will attend the 9:00 am joint church service, with coffee hour to follow. Pastor Mandy is planning a 2027 National Youth Gathering meeting Sunday at 6:30 pm. She will be taking some time off, with Deason Lyla covering services on May 3 and May 10. Graduation Sunday is scheduled for May 17. There is one student graduating from East Sveadahl and 6 students from Augustana. VBS registration will be opening soon, and Pastor Mandy will be wrapping up confirmation for the year. Applications for the Richard Larson Scholarship have been received and approved for the following students: Jenavieve Knaack, Vivian Leach, Lydia Overson and Ava Spitzner. Darrick made a motion to approve the scholarship applicants, which was seconded by Jodi.

AES report: was not scheduled to meet this month.

Committee Reports

Education committee - The Easter egg hunt was well attended this year. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, candy or monetary contributions. We also extend our thanks to all who helped serve during coffee hour.

Evangelism/Social ministry - more info to follow regarding the 2026 Time and Talents sheets.

Worship/music Committee - "Praise at the Pub" will resume during the summer months, with one gathering planned at each of the following locations: the VFW, American Legion and the Eagles. Terry has located a replacement DVD recorder, with an estimated cost of \$400 to \$450. Nick will meet next Tuesday at 3:30 pm with the technician to learn how to program the new LED Eternal Flame candle in the Sanctuary. The Committee will also review and update the usher volunteer list and to send a reminder to check after services. Additionally, the committee will review communion setup and would like to look into having students lighting the candles during services.

Finance Committee Report - The committee has been working on establishing a backup for Deanna. They have also been working on setting up a PayPal account with Venmo and a QR code. These contributions will be treated like cash and directed to the general fund. The committee would like to plan an informational meeting during coffee hour.

Property/Cemetery Committee - Regarding the roof on the education wing, Andy obtained an estimate of approximately \$82,500 for an A-framed roof, compared to \$50,000-\$60,000 for replacing the existing rubber-lined flat roof. The committee will inspect the current roof to assess its condition. The committee also plans to use a lift to repair a tile. Additionally, they are working to determine where the wasps are entering the building. The current cameras throughout the church are not in real-time. Terry asked council members to gather information on alternative camera systems for discussion next month.

Youth Committee - A total of \$267 was raised from Breakfast and Bingo. Easter breakfast totaled \$237. Flower sales began April 1 and will run through May 3 . The youth committee will serve for Graduation Sunday coffee hour at 9:30am. Pastor Mandy will not be able to attend coffee hour as she will need to be out to East Sveadahl for worship service. Plans include selling beef stick bouquets for Father's Day and hosting Bingo at Pleasant View on June 7. The committee is also hoping to serve two days at the Threshing Bee in August and is scheduled to play Bingo at Pleasant View on August 2.

OLD BUSINESS:

Noisy Offering: April Noisy offering will go to Bible Camp (camperships). Motion to approve was made by Sandy and seconded by Jodi.

Church mowing: Bob Moll submitted a bid for mowing services as follows: cemetery with headstones at \$165.25 per mowing, open areas of the cemetery at \$90 per mowing, church grounds and trimming at \$81.75 per mowing, and fertilizing with weed control at \$90 per application. Darrick made a motion to approve Bob's bid, which was seconded by Andy.

Neighborhood Pantry: 3 to 4 volunteers were needed to work at the food shelf on April 16 from 4-6 pm. James reported that Ehrich and William will be available to volunteer.

NEW BUSINESS:

WELCA donations: WELCA's St. Lucia and Bake Shop proceeds will be divided as follows: \$300 Mumbai Mission, \$300 Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, \$300 Camperships, \$300 Wellspring, \$300 Watonwan Cares, \$300 Neighborhood Pantry, \$100 AES Youth and \$100 ROAR. A special Thank you is extended to WELCA for their continued support and generosity.

Other: It was brought forward that some of the tables in the social hall should be replaced. Darrick will also check with the Men's Group to see if they would be able to share the cost.

The meeting ended at 8:18 pm and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius



AES MINISTRIES
P. O. BOX 151
ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA 56081
TELEPHONE: 507-375-4792

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MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Augustana and East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

Mandy France, Pastor

Lyla Klee, Visitation Deacon

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR AES MINISTRIES

9:00 am service at East Sveadahl

10:30 am service at Augustana