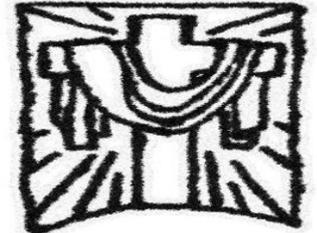


## Pastor's Column



### LENTEN SCHEDULE



## “WADING IN THE WATERS OF FAITH”

### THE WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

- March 4 – 5:30 pm Supper at East; 6:30 pm Service at East  
Ham sandwiches, chips, chili, chicken noodle soup, bars
- March 11 – 5:30 pm Supper at Augustana; 6:30 pm Service at Augustana
- March 18 – 5:30 pm Supper at East; 6:30 pm Service at East  
Spaghetti and meatballs
- March 25 – 5:30 pm Supper at Augustana; 6:30 pm Service at Augustana

### HOLY WEEK

- March 29 – 10:00 am Joint Palm Sunday Worship Service at Augustana  
Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt to follow the service.
- April 2 – 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Augustana  
First Communion Service
- April 3 – 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship Service at East SveadahL

### EASTER

- April 5 – 8:00 am Easter Communion Worship Service at Augustana  
9:00 am Easter Breakfast & Coffee Hour  
9:00 am Rolls and Coffee at East  
10:00 am Easter Communion Worship Service at East SveadahL

**AUGUSTANA - MARCH****CIRCLES**

March 3: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle – Fireside  
 4: 9:00 am Martha Circle – Fireside  
 17: 9:00 am Sewing Circle – Augustana

**LECTORS**

March 1: Kari Miest  
 8: Leora Ask  
 15: Lisa Carlson  
 22: Katie Zezulka  
 29: Jodi Coleman – Joint @ Augustana

**MEMORIALS**

In memory of Suzann Olson  
 \$225 – Undesignated Memorials

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to furnish Altar Flowers for a particular Sunday, call the church office and your name will be placed on the schedule.

**ALTAR GUILD**

Jeanne Miest, Kari Miest, Colleen Newman,  
 Judy Thulien, Mary Anderson

**GREETERS**

March 1: Darrik & Kari Miest  
 8: Lisa Carlson  
 15: Ashley Johnson  
 22: Eugene Zarn  
 29: John & Jeanne Miest

**NOISY OFFERING**

March 29

**Synod Assembly Delegates**

Augustana is needing 1 male and 1 female delegate for the Synod Assembly June 5 – 6. It can be in person at Gustavus College in St. Peter or through Zoom. If interested, please reach out to Pr. Mandy.

**USHERS**

Jim Anderson, Chris Bass, Chad Gronewold,  
 Darrick Miest, Jackson Miest, Doug Westman

**AUGUSTANA - MARCH****TRANSITIONS****Funerals**

**Suzann Olson** passed away January 22, 2026.  
 Her funeral was January 31, 2026.

May God's peace comfort her family and friends.

**MISSIONARY SPONSORS**

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

Missionary Sponsor for March: Gene & Carol Zarn

**RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM**

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.  
 East sponsors the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month,  
 Augustana sponsors the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month,  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are split between the churches.  
 To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

The March 22<sup>nd</sup> radio broadcast from Augustana  
 is available for a sponsor.

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

March 1:  
 8:

**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](http://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.

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**

Confirmation

## EAST MARCH

### RADIO BROADCASTS

March 1: First Lutheran, St. James  
 8: East Sveadahl  
 15: First Lutheran, St. James  
 22: Augustana  
 29: Augustana

### ALTAR COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll, Cathy Anderson

### VISITING COMMITTEE

Teresa Andrews and Janet Bloomquist

### USHER

Wes Beck

### LECTORS

March 1: Lee Carlson  
 8: Dale Anderson  
 15: Torkelsons  
 22: Tricia Anderson  
 29: Joint at Augustana

### EAST RADIO SPONSORS

March 8: Tom & Cathy Anderson  
 April 12: Phyllis Jurgens  
 May 10: Kris Suess  
 May 31:  
 June 14:  
 July 12:  
 If you would like to sponsor any of these 2026 broadcasts, please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00. Thank you.

### NOISY OFFERING

March – Food Shelf  
 April, May, June – Bless a Camper  
 Keep saving those coins!!

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The next time you're feeling down,  
 think about all the terrible things  
 that didn't happen to you.  
 ~ Barbara Johnson

## EAST MARCH

### TRANSITIONS:

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

### STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through January	\$ 6,786.67
Received through January	\$ 3,447.17
Behind through January	- \$ 3,339.50
Received in January	\$ 3,447.17

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BAPTISM DATE

- 2 Camron Fast [10-15]
- 3 Darryl Jensen [1-2]
- 5 Lisa Shellum [4-4]
- 12 Cole Christenson [9-14]
- 13 Clinton Berlin [4-8]  
Aleisha Weiss [5-7]
- 14 Mason Lenning [6-29]
- 17 Terry Bloomquist [4-16]
- 20 Tom Anderson [4-5]
- 24 Ashley Keosaksith [4-15]
- 28 Janet Bloomquist [5-2]

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WELCA will be ordering the Easter lilies for Easter Sunday.

Please contact **Evonne [507-828-9973]**, **Cathy [507-621-2838]**, or **Susan [507-317-5293]** to place your order and to let them know who you are giving your plant in memory of or in honor of by Monday, **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

The cost of a lily is \$20.00. Please send your payment to Evonne Moll, 29612 700<sup>th</sup> Ave., St. James, MN 56081.




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If it weren't for the last minute,  
 nothing would get done!!



## AES MARCH NEWS



### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS - March 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Youth will be hosting Bingo at the Nursing home on Sunday March 8th from 2 PM until 3 PM . We are asking all youth in grades 6th -12th grade for help! Please let Sandy Berg know if you are able to help or not by March 1st! The residents look forward to playing bingo but really enjoy seeing all the youth. It really makes their day.

AES Youth are hosting a St, Patrick's Breakfast and Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday March 15th following the 9 AM service at Augustana. Breakfast Menu: Build your own Breakfast Sandwich and Yogurt Parfaits. Breakfast will be a free-will donation and Bingo will be \$5 for 5 games. Hope to see you all!

### SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars!!! Vacation Bible School is June 15 - 18 at First Presbyterian from 1 – 4 pm. Watch for upcoming details!

### BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY - WELCA

✦ BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY ✦ You are cordially invited to help us continue celebrating Bold Women's Sunday by being our guests during Coffee Hour, after church, on March 1. See you there!

♥ Augustana WELCA BOLD WOMEN



### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS - Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 - 4:00 pm



Join Pastor Mandy on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> at Augustana from 1-4 pm to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class is open to all ages, but is traditionally for 2nd graders. If your child has shown interest in communing, however, please have them attend! Children must attend with a parent/guardian. For those who want to partake in first communion, it will be on Maundy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 6:30pm at Augustana. Please RSVP to this class by emailing or texting Pastor Mandy. Cell: 651-800-6672 Email: [aesministriespastor@gmail.com](mailto:aesministriespastor@gmail.com)

### SHARING AN EASTER LILY?



Augustana has made special arrangements to purchase Easter Lilies & Pastel Mums at a cost of \$15.00 per plant. These plants will be used to glorify the sanctuary for our celebration of the Resurrection of our Savior on April 5<sup>th</sup> at worship. The plants may be picked up anytime following the service. Please plan to share a plant with the congregation to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and to enjoy in your home for months after. Please fill out the form and return it to the church office by Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, call the church office at 375-4792, or e-mail your request to [aeslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:aeslutheran@gmail.com) before that day. Thank you!

## ***BLESS A CAMPER 2026 IS BACK***

AES has 11 campers attending Shetek this summer. Bless a Camper, established in 2023, gives our church family the opportunity to support youth attending summer camp through monetary donations. Gifts may support the entire group or a specific camper and may be given anonymously.

Each church will have a **Bless a Camper** poster. If you would like to contribute, please take an envelope and follow the instructions inside. Our goal is to help as many youth as possible attend this enriching summer experience, and your support makes that possible for these families.

Posters will be available at church from **March through May**.

## ***THANK YOU***

Dear East Sveadahl, thank you very much for your generous support of the Neighborhood Pantry, formerly the Watonwan County Food Shelf. Your contribution of \$1,759.75, received in 2025, allows us to purchase essential items and restock our shelves. ... We are grateful for your continued donations and willingness to help others.  
- Sincerely, Watonwan County Food Shelf Board

THANK YOU ALL! A Huge thank you to all the members that helped with getting ready for our switch to booklet offering envelopes. Lauren was a saint in the office to help with updating addresses as they came in. It took precious time from her as she was also closing the books for 2025 and preparing for the Annual Meeting. Also heart felt thanks to Darrick Miest, Jeanne Miest, Leann Nibbe and Jayne Anderosn. Without all of your help, we would have really struggled to get them out! Please thank them when you see them!!  
- Again Thanks, Deanna

# ***COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS***

## ***DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>***

Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR before going to bed.

## ***WELLSPRING EVENTS - March 11<sup>th</sup>***

Friends in the Kitchen – preparing meals – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 3-4:30 pm in the kitchen at the Watonwan County Resource Center, 108 8<sup>th</sup> St. S., St. James. Call to register 507-375-1276

### **Financial Facts - January 2026**

	<b>January</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Total Giving</b>	\$ 23,026.22	\$ 23,026.22
<b>Total Expenses</b>	- \$ 19,325.54	\$ 19,325.54
	+ \$ 3,700.68	+ \$ 3,700.68

This is a positive start to the New Year.

To fulfill the 2026 Budget as approved at the Annual Meeting we need donations of \$3,687 per week.

Also, as we begin the new year, I would like to remind you of giving opportunities to support our “Radio Broadcasts” at \$40 per month (this is solely funded through donations).

Gifts to the Missionary Program (\$20 a week) and support for World Hunger and Disaster Relief, in any amount are appreciated. These monies are forwarded directly to the SWMN synod for distribution in those areas. Thank You to ALL for your continued support of Augustana.

Respectfully Submitted – Lauren Moll - Treasurer

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - February 1, 2026

### 155<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The 155<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the East Sveadah Lutheran Church was held on February 1, 2026, with 18 members in attendance following a potluck dinner.

Chairman Tom Anderson called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their faithful service.

Pastor Mandy opened with a Liturgy and offered a prayer for those who couldn't be at the meeting.

A motion was made by Wayne Jurgens, seconded by Bruce Sharp, and passed to accept the 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes as printed in the 2025 Annual Report.

Pastor Mandy thanked everyone for a great 2025. She highlighted the success of the new hymnal *All Creation Sings*. She shared her optimism for the growth of the ecumenical youth programs and noted that ROAR is a strong, growing program. Pastor Mandy thanked all the volunteers who work with the youth.

Lori Urevig shared that the AES Joint Council met four times and had a great year.

Tom highlighted some of the congregational statistics from page 5 and 6 of the Annual Meeting report.

The financial reports of the church organizations were presented as written in the Annual Report. Tom thanked Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary, and Kris Suess, Treasurer, for volunteering their time for their positions. The other organization's financial reports were highlighted. The shortfall in meeting the budget was noted. Funds were taken from our Mission Investment Fund to help decrease the deficit.

The written reports were reviewed.

Tom presented the Property Report.

Bernie Jurgens presented the nominating committee ballot for 2026. A thank you was given to Wayne Jurgens, Kris Suess, and Cindy Torkelson whose terms were up on the council. Tom Anderson was nominated to be Delegate to the Synod and Conference by Paul Torkelson, seconded by Wes Beck, motion carried. As all positions on the ballot are filled by volunteers, a motion by Paul Torkelson, seconded by Cindy Torkelson, and passed to accept a unanimous ballot. Bernie thanked those who volunteered to positions on the ballot.

The results of the ballot are as follows: (All volunteered for the positions)

<b>Church Council</b> (3 for 3 year term)	Wayne Jurgens, Kris Suess, Julene Hoffman
<b>Auditor</b> (1 for 3 year term)	Wes Beck
<b>Head Usher</b> (1 for 2 year term)	Wayne and Bernie Jurgens
<b>Lector Coordinator</b> (1 for 1 year term)	Kris Suess
<b>Nominating Committee</b> (2 for 2 year term)	Angie Noren, Lynette Noren
<b>Decorating Committee</b> (2 for 3 year term)	Lisa Shellum, Lori Urevig
<b>Delegate to Synod &amp; Conference</b> (1 man/1woman for a 1 year term)	Tom Anderson

The Cemetery Association meeting was held with Wes Beck presiding.

#### Old Business:

Tom reported on the church siding. It was put on in 1989. There is 5% of the lifetime warranty left which is not enough to scrape and repaint the siding. It was recommended that nothing be done at this time.

A thank you was extended to everyone who helped at this year's Work Day. A special thank you was given to Cory Suess for his help with the tree removal. Eric Noren was thanked for his work with snow removal.

#### New Business:

The 2026 East Sveadah Lutheran Church Budget Proposal along with the Resolutions were presented. A motion by Dale Anderson, seconded by Wayne Jurgens, and passed to approve the proposed 2026 Budget and Resolutions. It was noted that the AES shared expenses is a split of 33% East Sveadah and 67% Augustana for 2026 according to the CCC membership of each church.

Lisa Shellum shared that updates in technology are needed.

Special thanks were given to Sonja Coleman, Kris Suess, Lisa Noren, to everyone who volunteers, to Susan Anderson for all her above and beyond help, and to Tom for his continued leadership at East Sveadah.

As there was no other business, a motion by Kris Suess, seconded by Paul Torkelson, and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Anderson, Secretary Pro-Tem

## **EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – February 12, 2026**

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Dale Anderson, Lori Urevig, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Wayne Jurgens, Julene Hoffman, Sonja Coleman, and Susan Anderson

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order, and Pastor Mandy opened with prayers that were brought forth by the council.

Janet presented the council minutes for the January 8, 2026 meeting. A motion by Dale, seconded by Kris, and passed to approve the minutes as printed in the February newsletter.

In the absence of Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary, Tom presented her report and Kris Suess, Treasurer, presented her report. A motion by Janet, seconded by Lori, and passed to approve the reports as presented.

Tom asked for any outstanding bills of which there were none.

### **PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:**

- Sunday, February 15 the youth group will be helping at the Neighborhood Pantry.
- Wednesday, February 18, Ash Wednesday there will be Ashes on the Go outside of Augustana from noon to 1 p.m.
- Sunday, February 22 at 2 p.m. at Augustana the Watonwan River Conference Assembly will meet. All are welcome to attend.
- Eleven youth are signed up to attend Bible Camp at Lake Shetek this summer.
- VBS will be June 15-18 at First Presbyterian Church in St. James. First Presbyterian, AES, and First Lutheran combine to have a joint VBS. Time will be from 1- 4 p.m.

Noisy Offerings for April, May, and June were discussed. It was decided that these three months will go to the Campership Fund.

A motion by Janet, seconded by Dale, and passed to donate \$100 to the ROAR program for the Palm Sunday Easter Egg hunt.

**AES REPORT:** Next meeting is March 5 at East. Tom Anderson, Lori Urevig, Wayne Jurgens, and Lynne Rolshoven are on the AES council for 2026.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Annual meeting went well.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Final plans for the Lenten suppers at East were made. East will host the March 4 and March 18 Lenten suppers.

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

The next church council meeting will be March 12, 2026.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

## **AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - January 25, 2026**

Pastor Mandy opened the meeting with an Opening Liturgy.

Council President Stan Kunkel called the meeting to order at 10:19am.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on Jan 26, 2025, was made by Mark and seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

Committee and organization reports are listed in the Annual Report. No issues were brought forward.

Audit Committee Report was presented by Mark Larson. Jim Moody, Jackie Harrington, and Mark Larson met to review financial reports from all committees and found no issues.

Treasurer's reports from WELCA, Churchmen, AESY, and ROAR are included in the Annual Report.

Lauren presented the Augustana Lutheran Church Treasurer's report. Lauren explained which expenses were over budget, as well as what was included in those expenses.

**Old Business:**

A. Stained glass window project - The windows that needed the most work are now complete. We plan to complete the remaining windows ourselves. The stained glass repair fund will remain, as it is dedicated to the stained glass project. Other upcoming projects: replacing some of the sidewalk and the education wing roof. This roof consists of a rubber membrane and has exceeded its expected lifespan. We are currently evaluating the most cost-effect replacement or repair options.

**New Business:**

A. 2026 Annual budget - Two items were over budget due an unusual year: worship supplies and mileage/misc reimbursement pastoral expense. Mark Kulseth stated that St. James Electric will look into changing the sanctuary candle to electric option. Jim Moody from the audit committee mentioned that WELCA and ROAR checking accounts could move to online banking to eliminate the monthly paper statement fee. Lauren offered to print the statement each month if needed. Motion to approve the 2026 Annual Budget was made by Mark and seconded by Jodi. Motion carried

B. Church council - The church constitution currently states that the council shall consist of 12 members. The council recommended amending this to allow for a minimum of eight members and a maximum of 12 members. This amendment required final approval from the congregation and was approved by a raised-hand vote, 45 to 1. A motion to change the required number of council members from 12 to 8 was made by Darrick and seconded by Jeff.

C. Election of church council: Jeff Price, Stan Kunkel, Lynn Watson, and Dean Swenstad have completed their council terms. Motion to accept new council members: Nick Dannhoff, James Joosten, and Terry Engel was made by Bill, seconded by Jodi. Sandy made a motion to elect Terry Engel as Council President which was seconded by Darrick. Motion carried. Kyla Schloman agreed to serve as the lay member on AES Joint council. Motion to approve was made by Jodi, seconded by Bob.

All council members are invited to attend a meeting on Sat. Feb 7, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The council will review the mission statement, set goals, review committee projects, and plan for the year ahead.

D. Time and Talent sheets and Pledge cards: Please prayerfully consider as you fill out the Time and Talent sheets and Pledge cards. Your response helps us plan responsibly for the year ahead and ensures that our ministries continue to thrive.

Motion to adjourn made by Gene, Kyla seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28am

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

## **AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - February 7, 2026**

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

Treasurer's Report: Lauren presented the Treasurer's report. Note the higher expenses for January were due to workers comp and property/building insurance. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Sandy and seconded by Bob. Motion carried.

Giving report: Deanna presented the giving report.

Election of officers: John Coleman was nominated vice president. James Joosten will serve a 2 year term on AES council. Jill Beckius will serve as secretary. Motion to approve the elected officers was made by Jodi and seconded by Nicole. Motion carried.

The remainder of the meeting focused on committee assignments and setting 2026 goals.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius



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

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## ***AES MINISTRIES      March 2026 Newsletter***

### ***LENTEN SUPPERS and WORSHIP***

***Lenten suppers are from 5:30 – 6:30 pm on the following dates and locations***

***Lenten Worship is at 6:30 pm***

***March 4 – East Sveadah***

***March 11 – Augustana***

***March 18 – East Sveadah***

***March 25 – Augustana***

### ***HOLY WEEK***

***March 29 – Palm Sunday, 10:00 Joint Worship Augustana***

***April 2 – Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm Communion Worship, Augustana***

***April 3 – Good Friday, 6:30 pm Worship, East Sveadah***

***April 5 – Easter Communion Worship, 8:00 Augustana***

***Easter Communion Worship, 10:00 am East Sveadah***

***Augustana and East Sveadah Lutheran Churches***

***Mandy France, Pastor***

***Lyla Klee, Visitation Deacon***