

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: Terry Engel Greeters: Stan & Nancy Kunkel

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

LEFT COLUMN, ELW p. 94

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

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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.

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake
of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

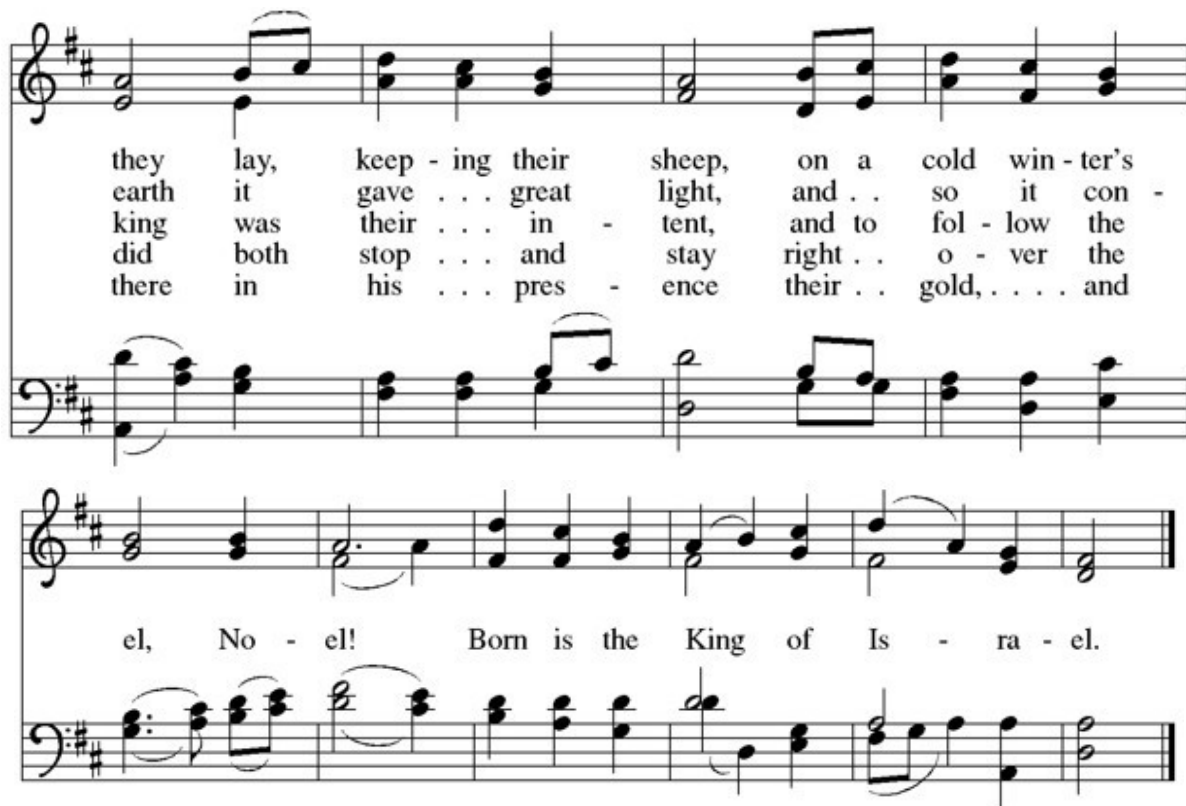
GATHERING SONG

"The First Noel"

ELW #300

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin-ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray....

C: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 2nd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Three Kings”

See Handout/Screen

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy - al beau-ty bright,

west-ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW p. 105

**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.

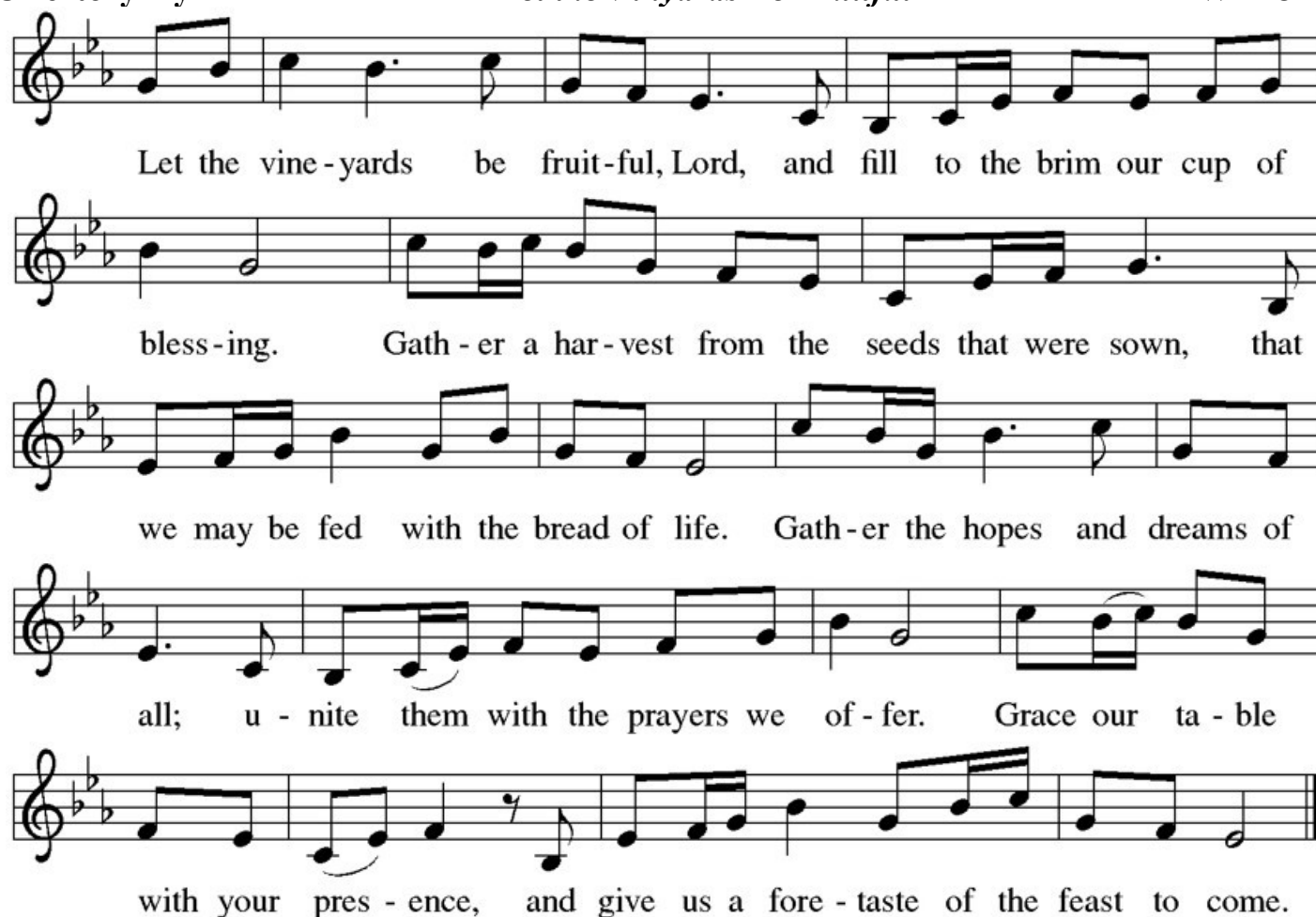
C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Offertory Hymn

"Let the Vinyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

***L:** Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Words Of Institution

ELW p. 190

The Lord's Prayer

ELW p. 191

**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

Distribution

Post Communion Prayer

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

“What Child Is This”

ELW #296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



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

Prayer Concerns: *Lindsey Kulseth, Dean Hoffman, Brandon Hagen, Jesse Berg, Debbie McGuire, Roger Hagen, Nolan O'Connor, Judy Berg, Terry "Cub" Watson, Darrell Ask, Dennis Johnson, Mike Larson, Jamie (Noren) Seiner, Marie Christenson, Darryl Jensen, Phyllis Jurgens, Dave Finnegan, Suzann Olson, 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.*

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General Offering: \$8,361.00	12-14-25 Vanco/Online Offering: \$ 289.05
Vanco/Online Offering: <u>\$ 261.55</u>	12-14-25 & 12-21-25 General Offering: \$3,521.15
Total Offering for December 28th: \$8,622.55	12-21-25 Vanco/Online Offering: <u>\$ 913.05</u>
	Total Offerings: \$5,023.25

Amount needed each week is \$3,572.94 to make budget.

Activities from January 5 – January 11

Monday 3:00 pm – (E) Study Group
Tuesday 9:30 am – Rebecca Circle
2:15 pm – Augustana on Cable TV
Wednesday 9:00 am – Martha Circle @ Carol Zarn's
5:30 pm – ROAR Meal
6:00 pm - ROAR
Thursday 7:00 am – (E) Church Council
Sunday 9:00 am – (A) Communion Worship
10:00 am – (A) Coffee Hour
10:30 am – (E) Communion Worship
11:30 am – Radio Broadcast on 1370AM

Church Announcements

- ✠ **Augustana reports** are due Wednesday, January 14th.
- ✠ AES Youth in **grades 6-12 are invited to go snow tubing** at Mt. Kato on January 18th from 1-5:30. Cost is \$10. RSVP to Sandy Berg at 507-381-8903 by January 4th. Feel free to bring a friend!
- ✠ Augustana WELCA is hosting a **Baby Shower for Jesus** on January 11th after the worship service. A Brunch will be served with a free will offering. Proceeds will go to purchasing more baby items. For those attending, we ask if you could donate newborn clothing, diapers, etc. and Monetary gifts are welcome. All donations will go to Human Services to give out to families in need. Items can also be dropped off in the basket by the church office anytime.
- ✠ **Pr. Mandy is out of the office December 29 – 31st.** Deacon Lyla is on call.
- ✠ **Lauren will be out of the office from January 5th – 12th.** Sue will be in the office from 9 am – around 11 am Mon., Jan. 5th – Thurs., January 8th. Susan Anderson is available by email at seanderson0103@gmail.com and by phone at 507-317-5293.
- ✠ Month of January is **Property Committee** to fill our Food Pantry.
- ✠ The Augustana **Annual Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 25th following the 9 am worship service.
- ✠ American Lutheran Church in Windom is having a **Lutefisk Supper** Sat., Jan. 10th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Limited tickets available at door. Adults \$15, Children 12 and younger \$8. To purchase tickets in advance call 507-831-1794.