

AES MINISTRIES
Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Pastor's Column

Dear Church,

One of the first hymns I ever learned as a child in Sunday School was “Jesus Loves Me.” I remember singing it all the time. The words were reassuring to me. They were comforting. As a young child, I was eager to proclaim this promise over and over again - “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” These words are easy to believe, right? We are told from the beginning that Jesus loves “me”! Of course he does! But what about “you”?

The truth is, I have seen a big turn recently in society that has me cringing a little bit at the beloved hymn “Jesus Loves Me.” Society tells us, time and time again, that we should only focus on ourselves. We need to do everything and anything to get ourselves ahead. We need to support, vote, and enact policies and laws that benefit only ourselves. We need to make ourselves richer. We need to make ourselves better. Society says, “It doesn’t matter if it hurts the person next to you, do what you need to do to get ahead.” I struggle with this.

The call of the Christian is not an inward calling. It is an outward one. Christianity calls us to set our egos aside and humble ourselves. Jesus was quite clear in his ministry that following Him requires us to set our neighbors’ needs ahead of our own. It is easy to sing “Jesus loves me”. It is harder to sing “Jesus loves you” - especially when the “you” is someone you don’t understand or like and yet, that is the call of the Christian. We are called to air on the side of grace. We are called to not be judgmental of others. We are called to view all people as God’s own beloved children.

I pray for healing in our world. I pray that the Spirit will work to move us out of this “me, me, me” mentality and into a place of caring for our neighbors. I pray we can all make small, yet impactful, changes in our own lives to benefit the oppressed and the marginalized. I pray that we can be bold in our proclamation that Christ’s love is for all God’s people.

“Jesus loves YOU. This I know! For the Bible tells me so” - May we journey forward proclaiming this good news to all people. God’s love is so big and that is the best news of all! Jesus loves YOU dear church! Now, go and love your neighbor!

Pr. Mandy France

AUGUSTANA

CIRCLES

October 1: 9:00 am Martha Circle – Pleasant View
 October 7: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle
 October 21: 9:30 am Sewing Circle
 October 22: 2:00 pm WELCA – Brandt Ridge

USHERS

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

LECTORS

October 5: Lisa Carlson
 12: Kari Miest
 19: Judy Thulien
 26: Kirsten Freitag

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.

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Andrea Sandberg**
 \$10 – Green Lake Ministries
 \$10 – Stained Glass Window Fund
 \$20 – Cemetery Fund

In memory of **Marci Samuelson**
 \$20 – Stained Glass Window Fund

RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.
 East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month,
 and two of the four 5th Sundays of 2025.
 Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month,
 and two of the four 5th Sundays of 2025.
 To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

October 26th: Gene & Carol Zarn

80th Birthday party for Elmer & Diann Carlson
 on Sunday, Oct. 5th from 2-4 pm at
 Mt. Lake Alliance Church, 809 5th Ave., Mt. Lake.

The Church Office will be closed on the following
 dates: October 16th, 29th, & 30th.

AUGUSTANA

TRANSITIONS

Wedding

Olivia Fredin & Dustin Hjelmer were married
 September 21, 2025 at Augustana.

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

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

The month of October: Jim & Judy Anderson

NOISY OFFERING

Sunday, October 26th – Going to Operation Concern

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.

ALTAR GUILD

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

GREETERS

October 5: Lisa Carlson
 12: Darrick & Kari Miest
 19: Greg & Judy Thulien
 26: Bill & Kirsten Freitag

COMMUNION SERVERS

October 6: Bob Moll & Darrick Miest
 13: Jodi Coleman & Lynn Watson
 26:

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Rebecca Circle

EAST - October

TRANSITIONS:

Cole Bryon Christenson, son of Peter and Emily Christenson, was baptized on September 14, 2025. He was born March 12, 2025. Cole's sponsors are Sandra Husby and Jacob Modell. Welcome to God's Family, East Sveadahl, and AES Ministries!

Donald Martin Ostberg was interred in the East Cemetery on Friday, September 19, 2025. Donald was born January 17, 1951, and passed away on September 1, 2025. May God's peace comfort his family and friends.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Brianna, Jimmy, Cub, Brenda, Mike, Jamie, Marie, Darryl, Phyllis, Bruce, Sam, Tom, Chloe, Orval

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through August	\$61,393.36
Received through August	42,887.17
Behind through August	- \$18,506.19
Received in August	\$ 6,533.38

Happy Birthday Happy Baptismal Birthday

- 2 Cindy Torkelson 11-25
- John Wolle 11-23
- 8 Daniel Avila 4-14
- 9 Bruce Sharp
- 15 Tama Bridges 11-29
- 16 Scott Reinke
- 17 Denae Bridges 12-24
- Sonja Coleman 11-23
- 18 Judy Beck 11-25
- 21 Nancy Vargeson 4 -
- 27 Emily Braaten 4-22
- 31 Tiffany Fast 12-16

LEFSA

The East WELCA will again be making lefsa this fall.
Orders can be placed with
Evonne Moll or Janet Bloomquist.

EAST - October

RADIO BROADCASTS

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

VISITING COMMITTEE

Sonja Coleman and Julene Hoffman

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lorita Nasman and Lynette Noren

USHERS

Kris Suess

LECTORS

October 5: Torkelsons
12: Dale Anderson
19: Sonja Coleman
26: Evonne Moll

NOISY OFFERING

October 26:

RADIO SPONSORS

October 12:
November 9:
December 14:

Sponsors are needed for the October, November, and December broadcasts. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Susan. The cost is \$40.00 per broadcast.

STEWARDSHIP !!!

Encourage each other
to build each other up.
- 1 Thessalonians

The real secret of happiness is
not what you give or
what you receive;
it's what you share.



AES October NEWS



PR. MANDY

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE ~ October 5-7

Pr. Mandy will attend the Fall Theological Conference in Spicer, MN. It begins Sunday evening and ends Tuesday afternoon – October 5 – 7.

CONTINUING EDUCATION ~ October 9 - 16

Pr. Mandy will be working on her continuing education requirements these days. Deacon Lyla will lead worship on Sunday the 12th and be on call.

YOUTH NEWS

ROAR and CONFIRMATION ~ October 1

ROAR and Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, October 1st at Augustana. Supper will be served at 5:30 pm followed by classes from 6 – 7:00 pm.

YOUTH FIELD TRIP ~ October 4

Youth in grades 6 – 12 are invited to go on a Field Trip to the Way of the Cross in New Ulm. Meet at Augustana at 10:00 am. Lunch will be provided.

HALLOWEEN PARTY ~ October 31

Save the Date – Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to a Halloween Party on Friday, October 31st from 7:00 pm until 11:00 pm at East Sveadahl. More information and sign-up will be available. You can contact Sandy Berg with any questions at (507) 381-8903.

TURKEY DINNER ~ November 19th

The Annual Turkey Dinner is Wednesday, November 19th from 5:30-7:00 pm at Augustana. Tickets (\$10.00) can be purchased from October 1 – November 2 from any AES Youth grades 6-12, Sandy Berg (507-381-8903), or at the Augustana office. Must have a ticket in advance to attend; take out meals will be available with a ticket. Menu: turkey, potatoes, dressing, vegetable, dessert, beverage

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING ~ November 21st – 22nd

Youth in grades 6-9 are invited to attend the Junior High Youth Gathering at the Holiday Inn in Willmar on Friday and Saturday, November 21st - 22nd. The cost to attend this event is \$50.00, the church is picking up the rest of the cost and lodging. We will leave after school on Friday and return home by 3:00 pm on Saturday. **Deadline to register is Sunday, October 5th.** To sign up, please contact Pr. Mandy or Sandy at 507-381-8903. Forms to fill out will be given to you. Hope you are able to attend and enjoy the night full of music, night life, worship, and tons of fun.

BINGO

The next Bingo Date is Sunday, November 2, 2:00 pm at Pleasant View!

WELCA'S BAKELESS BAKESALE ~ October 12

The Augustana WELCA is hosting a “Bakeless Bake Sale” and serving coffee hour at Augustana on Sunday, October 12, 2025, during coffee hour.

(continued)

Donations can be given at worship and coffee hour that day or dropped off at the church office.

The Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraising Poem

Many is the time I heard you say
I would rather give a "Dollar" than bake today
And so, we are asking you to help more or less
To make our Bakeless Bake Sale a big success.

Just send us the money that it would take
To bake a loaf of bread or a beautiful cake
Or send in the amount of money it takes to buy
A dozen rolls or maybe a pie.
We know you can help us if you will but try.



SAVE THE DATE: ST LUCIA CELEBRATION – December 13

We will hold our St Lucia Swedish tradition with a candle lit breakfast and our Bake Shoppe. Everything will be in the lower level of the Education Building. HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR RECIPES TO PREPARE ITEMS FOR THE BAKE SHOPPE? Donations will be received on Friday the 12th from 9am-6pm. Come and share the beautiful decorations, tasty breakfast and get some holiday baking for your celebrations you share with others or enjoy in your home.

We are looking for baked goods and treats, plus any members who would be willing to help prepare, serve and reset. Check with Jeanne Miest (507-380-0350) or Deanna Hoffman (507-317-7724). Hope to see you there!

FINANCIAL FACTS – AUGUSTANA – August 2025

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Total Giving	\$10,175.70	\$105,815.87
Total Expenses	- \$14,504.04	- \$132,918.20
General Fund	- 4,328.34	- \$ 27,102.33

As you can see, the Month and Year-to-Date totals are in the negative. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support our Augustana/AES Ministries.

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.

Respectfully Submitted, Lauren Moll - Treasurer

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELLSPRING ANNUAL FUNDRAISER ~ October 8

Wellspring's Annual Pizza Hot Dish Luncheon Fundraiser is Tuesday, October 7th from 11 am – 1 pm at the Eagles Club. Free will donation. Dine in, to go, or delivery available. Please call (507-375-1276) by Monday, October 6th for delivery.

REFORMATION SUNDAY ~ October 26

During October, Protestants celebrate the work of the Reformers – Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and others – who brought about much needed change in the Christian Church. These four teachings were at the heart of their contributions: Word Alone-the Bible is the surest guide for faith and life; Grace Alone-We are right with God when we accept God's love given to us freely; Faith Alone-It is by believing and trusting, not through our own works that we find salvation; and the Priesthood of all Believers-Christians are all on the same level—we are reciprocally and mutually one.

Reformation Sunday is celebrated in Protestant churches on the Sunday nearest October 31, the anniversary of the Luther's posting on the church door.

CHRISTMAS SHARING TREE

The St. James Women of Today are again conducting the Christmas Sharing Tree. If your family needs help this Christmas, applications are accepted at Human Services.

Trees with tags will be set up the week of Thanksgiving at Superfair, TruValue, First National Bank, Pioneer Bank, Mayo, Anytime Fitness, Eagles club and Lewis Drug. Gifts need to be returned by December 13th and will be distributed on December 19th and 20th.

Volunteers are needed to help wrap and/or purchase gifts. If you or your group can help, please call Donna Barrett (507-621-1598) or Melissa Brown (507-317-9149).

AES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES – September 4, 2025

Members present: Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, Janet Bloomquist, Lisa Carlson, Heidi Engel, Lori Urevig, Pr. Mandy, and Susan Anderson

Members absent: Pete Christenson, Nicole Meyer

Visitors present: None

Lori Urevig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Augustana. Lori welcomed everyone.

No member concerns were presented.

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

Tom made a motion to accept the June minutes. Sandy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- ~ She's had four funerals since the June meeting.
- ~ The Synod Assembly was held in June. In a cost saving measure, part of the Synod office building in Redwood Falls has been rented out.
- ~ At the Church Wide Assembly held at the end of July, a new bishop, Yaheil Curry, was elected. Pr. Mandy made note that there were more lay voting members than rostered leaders in attendance. Pr. Curry is the first ELCA black bishop. He will be installed at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis on October 4th.
- ~ Vacation Bible School was a great success with more new teachers and new children – 80 in total.
- ~ The Ecumenical Youth Night at East on August 27th was attended by 20 6-8th graders from First Presbyterian, First Lutheran, and AES Ministries. Plans are to have seasonal events.
- ~ Those attending Shetek Bible Camp had a great time. Plans are to offer a full week as well as a mini-camp to those attending next year.
- ~ She is busy working on the calendar for the coming year – ROAR, Youtherans, and confirmation.
- ~ Coming up in September: 7th – Blessing of the Backpacks; 28th – Rally Sunday
- ~ She will be attending the Fall Theological Conference October 5-7th in Spicer, MN.
- ~ She continues to work on the Lily Grant for her sabbatical.
- ~ She will also be working on her continuing education credit requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

- ~ The AES Picnic was a success; attendance was up. The worship service was well received. The suggestion was made to change the menu from salads to chips. Lori thanked all who worked and provided food.

(continued)

NEW BUSINESS

- ~ Kinzee Miest joined the meeting via phone to explain her proposal and answer questions about a church directory. After discussion, a motion was made by Janet that the \$25.00 per picture fee (picture to be put into the directory) be paid by Augustana or East; any additional family pictures will be paid by the family; and the directory, if purchased, will be paid by the family. Lisa seconded the motion. Motion carried. This motion will be presented to both councils. Lori and the Council thanked Kinzee for her work.
- ~ Tom and Sandy volunteered to be on the 2026 Salary Committee.
- ~ Nicole Meyer joined the meeting via phone when the Pastor's Salary Package was presented by Pr. Mandy. After discussion, Tom made the motion to enroll Pr. Mandy in the Portico Value Copay 400 plan for 2026, seconded by Sandy, the motion passed.
- ~ Relay for Life will be September 20th from 3-10:00 pm at the Fairgrounds.
- ~ Terms of the present Council members were reviewed. The present Council composition: two members were appointed for one year to replace members; the terms of two members will end; and two members \ have one year left.
- ~ The service times switch October 5th: Augustana worships at 9:00 am; East worships at 10:30 am
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm by Lisa, seconded by Heidi. Motion carried.
The next meeting is December 4th at 6:30 pm at Sandy's home.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

EAST SVEADAHN COUNCIL MINUTES – September 11, 2025

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, September 11 at 7 pm. Those present were Tom Anderson, Dale Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Kris Suess, Pastor Mandy, Sonja Coleman, and Susan Anderson.

Absent: Lori Urevig & Cindy Torkelson

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Mandy opened with prayers brought forth by the council.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the August 14 minutes as written in the newsletter.

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

Kris updated us on a miscalculation within the computer program concerning Pastor Mandy's compensation packet for the first six months of 2025. A motion was made by Wayne, seconded by Janet, and passed to do whatever is necessary to correct the miscalculation.

After some discussion, a motion by Dale, seconded by Kris, and passed to transfer \$5000.00 from the Mission Investment Fund to the general account.

Tom presented the outstanding bills.

The noisy offering from August 31, as discussed at the August council meeting, went to the Mission Aviation Fellowship in the amount of \$285.00.

PASTOR MANDY'S REPORT:

- Thank you to East for hosting the August 27 Ecumenical Youth Gathering. Twenty youth were in attendance and had a great time.
- East will have a baptism on Sunday, September 14.
- Sunday, September 28 is Rally Sunday with a joint service at Augustana at 10 a.m.
- Pastor Mandy will be attending the Fall Theological Conference from October 5-7, and Deacon Lyla Klee will be available during that time.
- ROAR begins Wednesday, October 1.

AES MEETING REPORT:

Tom presented the AES report concerning an updated AES Picture Directory. After some discussion, a motion by Kris, seconded by Dale, and passed to not do a directory at this time but revisit it in 2026. The AES Committee is having a special meeting following the joint service on September 28 at Augustana. *(continued)*

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- There is a new Minnesota law concerning paid leave for employers/employees beginning January 2026. Further information is being researched.
- A THANK YOU was given to Corey Suess for removing the tree stumps and adding black dirt where needed as a donation to East.
- A motion by Janet, seconded by Wayne, and passed to give a donation to Lynn and Leigh Rolshoven for all the coffee treats on Sunday mornings. THANK YOU!
As there was no further business, a motion by Janet, seconded by Dale, and passed to adjourn.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next council meeting will be October 9, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -- September 10, 2025

Present: Sandy Berg, Jodi Coleman, John Coleman, Andy Freitag, Stan Kunkel, Pastor Mandy, Nicole Meyer, Darrick Miest, Bob Moll, Jeff Price, Dean Swenstad, Lynn Watson, Jill Beckius

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Lauren presented the treasurer's report. Lynn made a motion to approve the report, which Jodi seconded.

Giving Report: Deanna presented the giving report. Deanna is currently collecting members' addresses for the offering booklets that will be mailed out next year.

Insurance Presentation: Todd Sauvageau from the American Church Group agency reviewed our current insurance policy, which is set to renew on January 1, 2026. Council members had the opportunity to ask questions, and Todd will follow up with us regarding an updated quote.

Job Description Update: The job description for an organist has been revised from "Organist" to "Pianist" to attract more applicants. Lynn made a motion to approve the posting of the new application, which Sandy seconded.

Funeral Coverage: We are asking members to prayerfully consider co-chairing the funeral team. The funeral director will contact the co-chair, who will then reach out to team members. Team members will assist with setup, serving, providing cakes and cleaning up. If interested, please contact Nancy Kunkel or Jeanne Miest.

Technology Assistance: We are looking for members to help with technology during Sunday services and funeral services. It would be ideal to establish a schedule for Sunday services. Nicole and Abby Meyer stated they would be willing to help.

Membership Directory: Mackinzee Miest has offered her assistance with the photo directory. The AES Joint Council has proposed a \$25 sitting fee per family, to be paid by each church. Families wishing for additional pictures will pay the additional \$25 fee. They also have the option to submit their own photos. Mackinzee will visit assisted living and nursing homes to take pictures as well. A printed directory will be available for members to purchase for approximately \$20-\$25. Jodi made a motion to approve the \$25 sitting fee for Augustana, which Lynn seconded. This is pending approval from East Sveadahl.

Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave Policy: Churches are not exempt from this new payroll tax of 0.88%, which will be split evenly between the employer and the employee. Jodi stated she will contact Lauren to assist in setting this up.

Larson Scholarship: Currently, the guidelines for this scholarship state that to be eligible, a student must be a member of Augustana on or before January 1 of their junior year of high school. A motion was made by Jeff to update the guidelines so that a student must be a member of Augustana on or before January 1 of their sophomore year of high school. This motion was seconded by Nicole.

Council: A discussion was held regarding council positions. Looking towards the end of the year, we will again need to fill 4 council member positions. The question was asked if it would be possible to have a minimum of nine members up to 12. This topic will be discussed at our next meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lynn and seconded by Bob. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Beckius

AES MINISTRIES
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October 2025 Newsletter

OCTOBER SUNDAYS

**October 5 & 12 9:00 am Augustana Communion Service
10:30 am East Communion Service**

**October 19 9:00 am Augustana Worship Service
10:30 am East Worship Service**

**October 26 9:00 am Augustana Communion - Confirmation
10:30 am East Communion - Confirmation**

OCTOBER WEDNESDAYS

**October 1 & 29 - 5:30 pm Supper at Augustana
October 1, 8, 22, 29 - 6-7 pm ROAR at Augustana
October 1 & 29 - 6-7pm Confirmation at Augustana**

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana and East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
Mandy France, Pastor Lyla Klee, Visitation Deacon