

**The First Sunday in Lent – February 21, 2021 (E)  
AES Ministries — Pastor Gene Alms  
In Sanctuary Worship at Both Services  
9:00 am Worship at Augustana on Facebook  
10:45 am Worship at East Sveadahl**

**Welcome**

**Gathering Litany / Prayer of Confession**

Today we step further into the 40 days of Lent. We acknowledge that life often seems to be spiraling out of control. There is much to tempt and distract us from doing what is good and important. On such days we need a rock. We need something solid to stabilize us. We need something stable for balancing against in the midst of chaos. (pause)

God's voice proclaims Jesus is the beloved Son of God. When we cry out, it is Jesus who picks us up, dries our tears, and whispers that we too belong to God. Jesus is the healer of our bodies and souls. He takes our pain and brokenness, forgives our waywardness, and makes life whole. Amen

**Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#504

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

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**Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Children's Time**

**Greeting Each Other**

**First Reading I Peter 3:18-22**

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

<sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of Life. Thanks be to God.

**Holy Gospel Mark 1:9-15**

The holy gospel according to Mark the first chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

<sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news." The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

*(continued)*



**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Thank you to the **Worship Crew** who brings you the worship service each Sunday.

COVID Worship protocol requires that there be **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING and NO CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES** to any readings during the worship service. Members of the worship crew will sing the hymns and read the readings. You are invited to follow along in the bulletin but please remain quiet. Thank you to adhering to these guidelines.

### **AES Prayer Concerns**

Steven Olson (son of Cleo Olson), Bette Flater, Bob Miller, Tom Anderson, Deb Style, Gary Schwanz, Karla Schwanz, Charles Noren, Chloe Anderson, Shelly Johnson, Orval Larson, Dennis Madison, Linda Madison, Don Menssen, Mary Ann Menssen, Emma Overson, Lanny Overson, Jim Sizer, Ray Kleinow, and Mavis Warling

**AES Praises** Baptism of Madelynn Berg

An immediate family private funeral service for **Merlin Arnold “Sonny” Reinke** will be held at Sturm Funeral Home in St. James on Saturday, February 20, 2021 with burial to follow in Calvary Cemetery. An open to the public Celebration of Life will be held at the Eagle’s Club from 11 am – 1 pm. Sonny was born February 10, 1935 and passed away February 11, 2021. May God’s peace comfort his family and friends.

**Madelynn Ann Berg** was welcomed into the Lord's Family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Sunday, February 21, 2021. Madelynn is the daughter of Taylor and Dawn Berg. Her sponsors are LilyAnn Berg, Adley Lemke and Liz Lemke. Please pray for Madelynn and her family as she continues to grow in faith and love. Welcome to AES Ministries.

**AES Joint Council members are reminded of the Special Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm SUNDAY.**

This week’s in sanctuary **Lenten service** is at 6:30 pm at Augustana. The service is on Facebook. The theme is *Remembering Laughter Times*. There are NO NOON Lenten services. Our apologies for this misinformation.

### **Activities this week: February 22 - February 28:**

Monday-Sunday	Pr. Gene’s scheduled week off
Monday	10:00 am Weekly Prayer meeting on Zoom
Tuesday	2:15 pm Augustana worship on cable tv
Wednesday	6:30 pm In sanctuary Lenten service, Augustana - Facebook 7:15 pm Call Committee meeting
Sunday	Worship with Deacon Lyla Klee – <b>BOLD WOMEN’S SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am Worship Service in Sanctuary, Augustana 10:45 am Worship Service in Sanctuary, East – Facebook New Member and Baptism Sunday at East 11:30 am Radio Broadcast on KSUM

The **Watowan River Conference** will meet on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at First Lutheran Church in St. James.

The Augustana Churchmen are **Missionary Sponsors** for February.

**Equipment/Furniture For Sale at Augustana** We are looking to sell the roll top desk that houses the current sound system. With the technology upgrades, additional storage space is needed, and we would like to offer it for sale to our congregation members. There is currently an offer of \$500.00 from outside the congregation, and the deadline is Sunday, February 21, 2021. If interested, please contact Terry Engel at 507-720-2336.

Becky Cobb and Jo Howe host an **old-fashioned weekly prayer meeting** every week on Monday morning at 10. We read a Psalm, pray general petitions together, and then lift up each name from our congregation's prayer list. We do this via Zoom and the link to join is found below, as well as the Sunday bulletin. Also, if you have a prayer request, please email or call the church, and we will add this to the weekly list that we pray for. There are several people who we pray for by name whose reason for being on the list is confidential. God knows the need and we trust God to provide what is most needed. Please join us on Monday mornings for about 20 minutes. Come as you are, you will be welcomed! Click Here to Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77502081644?pwd=NTdkeXB6TUirazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>

### **Food Shelf Volunteers are needed - always!**

Save-the-Date for the next distribution which is scheduled for Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm at Memorial Park. As always, in order to make these events a success, volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA4AC2FA2FACE9-august>