

Pastor's Column


LENT



“QUESTIONS TO GOD”

Who is God? Why do bad things happen to good people? How can I face the future? Asking questions is a normal part of human life. Having doubts is part of the human experience. We do not have to be ashamed of our doubts or hide our questions before God. In fact, God fully welcomes them and welcomes us. This Lent, we will practice bringing some of our biggest questions and doubts to God. We will practice embracing this deeply human part of ourselves as we move together toward the great and joyous mystery of Easter resurrection.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday	February 22	12:00-1:00 pm Ashes To Go, corner of Armstrong and Weston 6:30 pm Communion Worship, East
	March 1	5:00 pm Supper, Augustana 6:30 pm Service, Augustana
	March 8	5:00 pm Supper, East 6:30 pm Service, East – Deacon Lyla leads worship
	March 15	5:00 pm Supper, Augustana 6:30 pm Service, Augustana
	March 22	5:00 pm Supper, East 6:30 pm Service, East – Deacon Lyla leads worship
	March 29	5:00 pm Supper, Augustana – served by WELCA 6:30 pm Service, Augustana
	Palm Sunday	April 2
Maundy Thursday	April 6	12:00 pm [A] Communion service 6:30 pm [E] Communion service; First Communion
Good Friday	April 7	12:00 pm [A] Service 6:30 pm [A] Service
Easter Sunday	April 9	8:00 am [E] Communion Worship 10:00 am [A] Communion Worship

No suppers on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

AUGUSTANA - FEBRUARY

CIRCLES

Feb. 1: 9:00 am Martha Circle – Fireside
 7: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle – Fireside
 21: 9:00 am Sewing Circle – Augustana

LECTORS

Feb. 5: Ruth Haler
 12: Kari Miest
 19: Leora Ask
 26: Jean Leopold

MEMORIALS

In memory of Maurine Broste
 \$80 – Stained Glass Window Fund

In memory of Sharon Malott
 \$100 – Stained Glass Window Fund

In memory of Bob Plath
 \$545 – Stained Glass Window Fund

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

Becky Schmidt, Jean Leopold, Carol Zarn,
 Gladys MacMaster, Andrea Sandberg, Jill Beckius

HELP - ALTAR GUILD

Please consider helping with the Altar Guild. There are 5 teams who serve for a month so your commitment would probably be twice a year for about half an hour. The duties are simple, and we will show you how to dust the Altar area, fill the candles with oil and put flowers out on the Altar.

Please contact Jean Leopold 507-380-6881 or Jeanne Miest 507-380-0350 or leave your number with the office if you want to know more about helping in this way.

AUGUSTANA - FEBRUARY

TRANSITIONS

Funerals

A Celebration of Life was held for **Gary Missling** on January 21, 2023, at Augustana. Gary passed away January 5, 2023.

May God's peace comfort his family and friends.

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Please call the church office to sponsor our Missionary.

The cost is \$20.00 for a week.

RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.

East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month,
 Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month,
 5th Sundays are split between the churches.

To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

The February 27th radio broadcast from Augustana is available for a sponsor.

COMMUNION SERVERS

February 5: Jill Beckius, Lisa Carlson

12: Lyle Anderson, Darrick Miest

USHERS

John Miest, Dennis Johnson, Eugene Zarn,
 Bryan Nelson, Rich Olsen, Greg Thulien,
 Les Zellmann, Lyle Anderson, Doug Nibbe

ELECTRONIC GIVING

1. Electronically: visit church website and click on the "Secure Contributions" tab.
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.

EAST

TRANSITIONS:

PRAYER CONCERNS: Bruce, Erma, Jana, Sam,
Tom, Everett, Chloe, Mary Ann, Orval

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through December	\$76,269.96
Received through December	\$72,513.96
Behind through December	- \$ 3,756.00
Received in December	\$ 8,888.09

ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting of the East Sveadahl Lutheran Church** and the **East Sveadahl Cemetery Association** will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023, following the morning worship service. A potluck lunch will be served before the meeting.

You are asked to bring a dish to pass. Bread, beverages, dessert will be provided.

Happy Birthday - Happy Baptism Date

- 4 Elroy Menssen [3-1]
- 7 Bryon Christenson [3-11]
- 10 Mackenzie Blickem [3-15]
Mayzie Falk [6-19]
- 12 Danon Anderson [3-13]
Paul Wiederhoeft [5-3]
- 13 Cayden Huelsenbeck [7-21]
- 16 Shaun Shellum [6-1]
- 19 Anna Menssen [9-25]
- 20 Teresa Andrews [3-9]
- 22 Melissa Lindeman [12-16]
- 23 Debbie Anderson [4-19]
Kathy Christenson [4-21]
- 26 Shenya Johnson [4-15]
Mary Ann Menssen [4-14]
- 28 Elizabeth Coleman [4-8]
- 29 Tricia Anderson [3-1]



Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan.

EAST

RADIO BROADCASTS

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

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Sonja Coleman and Julene Hoffman

VISITING COMMITTEE

Cindy Torkelson and Lorita Nasman

USHERS

Wayne and Bernie Jurgens

LECTORS

- Feb. 5: Wes Beck
- 12: Tom Anderson
- 19: Sonja Coleman
- 26: Evonne Moll

RADIO SPONSORS

East is responsible for these broadcasts in 2023. If you would like to sponsor any of these broadcasts, please contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00 per Sunday.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| February 12 | August 13 |
| March 12 | September 10 |
| April 9 | October 8 |
| May 14 | November 12 |
| June 11 | December 10 |
| July 9 | December 31 |

Too often we underestimate the power of
a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear,
an honest compliment,
or the smallest act of caring,
all of which have the potential
to turn a life around.
- Leo Buscaglia

A hug is a great gift – one size fits all.
It can be given for any occasion and
it's easy to exchange.



AES FEBRUARY NEWS



BIBLE STUDY - February 5, 12, 19, 25

Pr. Mandy is leading a Bible study on Ruth February 5, 12, 19, and 25 at 10:30 am at East. All are welcome!

“SOAP”-ER BOWL - February 12th

Pastor Mandy is inviting you to participate in a "SOAP"er bowl as we also enjoy watching the Superbowl on February 12th. Bring any soap related product (laundry detergent, baby soap, dish soap, bar soap, body wash, etc.) to be donated to our local Food Shelf as well as our local High School Pantry. Monetary gifts will also be accepted for the Food Shelf and go very far when the Food Shelf purchases food. Please bring products to either church on February 12th.

BRIDAL SHOWER - February 18th

There will be an Open House Bridal Shower for Annika Torkelson and Beth Rudloff on Saturday, February 18th at 10:00 am at the Percy home in Sveadahl (former West Sveadahl Church). All are welcome!

“TACO TALK” - February 19th

"Let's TACO 'bout Faith" with Deacon Lyla and Pastor Mandy

Join Deacon Lyla and Pastor Mandy on Sunday February 19th at 6pm at Plaza Jalisco in Saint James to discuss faith. This is not a Bible study. This is purely discussion on relevant topics and will focus on Christian ethics. Bring an open mind! There will be differing opinions and respect is a must! You will be welcome to purchase food or drinks (or not). Come and enjoy deep discussion and good fellowship! Plan for one hour.

BOOK CLUB - February 23rd

This month's book club read is Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. "Strikingly relevant ... darkly funny and poignant." Meet on Thursday, February 23rd at 10:00 am at Encore.

BLESS A CAMPER

BLESS A CAMPER program will launch January 29th and go through May. We have a great group of AES youth attending Green Lake Bible Camp this summer, and we are asking if YOU can help send them. Our goal is to make it possible for all AES youth to attend. You will find each church has a poster for BLESS A CAMPER. If able/interested, please take an envelope from the poster. All information on how to help BLESS A CAMPER is enclosed, along with a stamped envelope. The AES Youth thank you in advance, and we look forward to sharing their experience with you this summer!

BIBLE CAMP

REMINDER - SIGN UP for Green Lake Bible Camp is closing on February 15th. If you haven't already and want to sign up your child, message Trish Anderson through the TLC Heja App or by phone 507-220-8236.

WINTER CANCELLATIONS

Winter weather is here! We ask you to please use your best judgement and common sense before venturing to church. Please check the sources listed below for cancellations before you leave home.

Church Closings:

Listen to 860 AM (KNUJ), Channel 12 KEYC-TV, check our Facebook page, or the AES web site at www.augustanachurch.org. for any snow emergency information. If school is cancelled or closed early, confirmation classes will also be cancelled.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY - LITTLE LIBRARY

Please continue to keep filling our little food pantry and little library. Food and books can be dropped off in the totes under the pew in the Education entrance at Augustana or placed directly in the pantry/library.

BAGS

Please save your used, clean plastic bags – grocery and others; they are used as fast as they are brought in. Travis Smith makes the flimsy bags into mats (800 to make a twin sized mat) for the homeless. The stronger bags go to the Food Shelf. Bags can be put in the tote under the pew in the Education Entrance.

PASTORAL INFORMATION

VISITS: If you would like a visit, please contact them: Pr. Mandy 375-4792 (office), 651-800-6692 (cell), email aesministriespastor@gmail.com, or Lyla at 507-439-6940 (home) or 507-227-9250 (cell)

REQUESTS: If you have pastoral care requests and concerns, please relay them to Pr. Mandy and Lyla via an email, call, or text so that no concern or request is forgotten.

PRAYER CONCERNS

We appreciate your care and concern for family members and friends by placing them to our Prayer Concern list in our bulletin. We believe in the power of prayer! If you have added someone to our prayer concerns, **please let us know when to remove their name if the need is no longer there.**

KEEPING in TOUCH

Facebook: “Like” the Augustana/East Sveadahl Ministries Facebook page for pictures, updates, etc.

AES Ministries website: www.augustanachurch.org

Address changes: Augustana office 375-4792, or Susan at East 507-317-5293

Weekly Bulletins: All bulletins are posted weekly on the AES Ministries website home page

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

The weekly Prayer Meeting is Monday morning at 10:00 am. Type in the link to join (or click on the link on the website). All are welcome to join.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77502081644?pwd=NTdkeXB6TUlrazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>

MARCHING ON



As agreed upon in the AES partnership, worship times will once again switch in March. Beginning on

Sunday, March 5, 2023

8:30 am worship will be at East Sveadahl

11:00 am worship will be at Augustana

THANK YOUUS

Thank you to Augustana for the thoughtful Christmas card and gift cards. It was deeply appreciated and extremely kind. Thank you!
Pastor Mandy

Thanks to the Augustana & East Sveadahl Congregations for their generous Christmas gifts. You certainly made my Christmas Shine in spite of all the snow!
Love, Lyla

East Sveadahl WELCA,

Thank you so much for your support of the Food Shelf. Your offering of \$340.00 received in December of 2022, allows us to purchase items and restock our shelves. It is through the generosity of donors like you that our Food shelf can provide services that are vital to improving the quality of life for our neighbors in need. We are so fortunate to have our donors! ...

Sincerely, Watonwan County Food Shelf Board

What a wonderful feeling to be able to again celebrate and share the beauty of our St. Lucia Celebration. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces coming to share the season with us. Thank you to all who worked to make it happen. The generosity of our members who shared their talents with donations to the Bake Shoppe was amazing. Also thank you to all who attended for the wonderful breakfast and purchasing Christmas goodies!! We are planning again for 2023!! Again, thank you!

Ray Berg, John Coleman, Judy Anderson, Sally Engel, Jeanne Miest, and Deanna Hoffman

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY - February 26th

This year's Watonwan River Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 26th at 2:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. Delegates will be needed from both congregations.

GLLM ANNUAL MEETING - February 14th

The Green Lake Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14th at noon with a meal for all delegates immediately followed by the business meeting. We will need delegates. If you are willing to attend, please talk to a member of your Council. This meeting is also via Zoom. For more information or questions, contact Kirsten at 320-796-2181 or kpalan@gllm.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Food Shelf is in need of volunteers quite badly. If you are able to help, please sign up at the link below. Please help pass this information on to anyone that may be interested in volunteering one or two times a month. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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

Financial Facts December 2022

	December	YTD
Total Giving	\$ 13,019.76	\$ 135,227.38
Total Expenses	- \$ 10,887.91	- \$ 155,633.25
	+ \$ 2,131.85	- \$ 11,668.15

We ended the month of December in the positive and the Year-End was close.... All of our bills are paid, and we do not have any debt. This year we also completed two large financial projects with the preservation of the “Stained Glass Windows” on the south side of the church and the installation of cameras and screens to enhance our “Worship Technology” outreach. Both of these were only completed after the funds were available so as always Thank You to ALL for your continued support of Augustana.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Thulien - Treasurer

FIRESIDE CHAT

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand, and for a talk beside the fire: It is the time home.”
Edith Sitwell



It is also time for a good book! Most likely, Christmas decorations are put away, things are tidied up and our assignment is to ride out the winter. What better way than with a good book?

Our church library is quite diverse. There is fiction, for a little mental getaway; there are non-fiction books that are quite lifegiving and inspirational; and there are wonderful reference books for your curious side. Perhaps you have wondered if the Bible says anything about snow! A hint: 18 times the Bible mentions snow! Maybe you have wondered what animal is mentioned the most in the Bible or if any of the disciples were married.

We have a great donation of Bible reference books from one of our members mother’s estate. These books are invaluable for answering questions like those above and a little history to boot.

There is something for all ages in the library and checking out is as easy as writing your name and the titles you are taking in the open notebook in the middle of the library shelves.

Come in and take a look. I promise you will find something that piques your interest! Happy reading!

Blessings in the new year, Becky

AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 4, 2023

Present: Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, Janet Bloomquist, Becky Cobb, Deanna Hoffman, Mark Kulseth, Teresa Andrews, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Mike Menssen

A quorum was established, and the meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Becky Cobb.

Prayer concerns were shared, and Pastor Mandy led us in prayers.

The Minutes from the December 1, 2022, meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:

An interview of a possible Youth Director has taken place. After the interview a number of questions

(continued)

came up. A discussion at our TLC meeting on whether or not we need two positions, namely TLC and Youth Director took place. The consensus was to still have two positions. There is a second person to interview for the Youth Director position so the issue was tabled until the other interview takes place and there is a better understanding of our needs.

Pastor Mandy plans to begin a young adult bible study in 2023. Watch the newsletter for further details.

Joint services for AES Ministries were set as follows:

January 29 at East with Sunday School singing

April 30 at Augustana

August 6 at East – Youth Campout weekend with AES Picnic on Sunday along with a Polka Service

October 29 at Augustana

December 31 at East

All joint services will be at 10 a.m.

Lenten schedule was set as follows:

Ash Wednesday at East at 6:30 pm – Pastor Mandy is working on having a noon communion drive by

March 1 Augustana

March 8 East

March 15 Augustana

March 22 East

March 29 Augustana

April 2 Palm Sunday – services at both churches

April 6 Maundy Thursday – service at East at 6:30 p.m. – 12 noon service at Augustana

April 7 Good Friday – service at Augustana at 6:30 p.m. – 12 noon service at Augustana

April 9 Easter Sunday – 8 a.m. at East and 10 a.m. at Augustana

All Wednesday night Lenten services will have supper served at 5 p.m. with services starting at 6:30. No suppers on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

Service times change on Sunday March 5 – East at 8:30 a.m. and Augustana at 11 a.m.

Tom thanked Becky for her role as Chairman of the AES committee for the past year along with Pastor Mandy for all her dedication this past year. Pastor Mandy in turn thanked everyone who will be going off the AES committee for their time and dedication followed by Becky thanking everyone for their support this past year.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom, seconded by Deanna, and carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is March 2, at 7:00 pm at East. There will be no meeting in February due to appointing new members to the committee at our individual church annual meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist

EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 12, 2023

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Evonne Moll, Wayne Jurgens, Erma Griffith, Dana Avila, and Sonja Coleman. Absent: Lori Urevig

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

The December 18 Secretary's report was approved as read.

Financial Secretary, Sonja Coleman and Evonne Moll, Treasurer, presented their reports. A motion by Janet, seconded by Erma, and passed to accept the reports as given.

Tom presented the outstanding bills. A motion by Evonne, seconded by Dana, and passed to approve paying of the bills.

In the absence of Pastor Mandy her report wasn't given.

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Tom highlighted the AES minutes which can be read in their entirety in the newsletter.

A request by Cindy Torkelson for a second custom artwork was brought before the council by Tom. It was tabled until the next meeting when we have more information.

The council asked Dana about the need for new bikes for her children following their fire. She requested we wait until they determine what was lost.

Old Business:

- The new Altar railings should be done soon.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 5 following the service.
- Tom thanked the outgoing council members – Evonne Moll, Wayne Jurgens, and Erma Griffith for their services on the church council.

The council finalized the 2023 East Sveadahl Budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 5. A motion by Dana, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the 2023 East Sveadahl Budget and Recommendations to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

As there was no further business, we closed with the Nicene Creed.

The next church council meeting will be February 9, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – January 11, 2023

Present: Sandy Berg, Deanna Hoffman, Jill Beckius, Lyle Anderson, Lynn Watson, Darrick Miest, Paul Missling, Judy Thulien, Mark Kulseth, and Lisa Carlson.

Absent: Kristi Zellmann, Kyla Schломann, Dean Swenstad, Kirsten Freitag, and Pastor Mandy.

Kulseth called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Devotions were led by Watson.

Reports:

*The Secretary's report was reviewed. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Watson to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.

*Treasurer's report was given by Thulien. Motion by Watson, seconded by Missling to approve the report.

*The Giving Report was presented by Hoffman.

*Pastor Mandy was not present but had written up a report that was passed around. There was one funeral in the past month. She did 13 in-person visits. We were able to have Christmas Eve service even though the weather was not good. The Ecumenical Blue Christmas was held at the funeral home. She is looking ahead to Lent and starting to plan that.

*AES Ministries: Becky Cobb is done with her position as president. Tom Anderson from East Sveadahl will be the next president of the AES council. The joint services have been planned. January 29th will be at E.S. April 30th will be at A. with Bully Pulpit performing as a fundraiser for Bible Camp. August 5th will be at E.S. with the annual picnic to follow. October 29th will be at A. which will probably be confirmation. December 31st will be at E.S.

Committee Reports:

*Education: Jan. 18th will be a movie event at the Princess Theater. The kids will sing at this month's joint service. February 1st will be a Valentine's party. They are starting to think about spring cleaning the supply room and what they will do next year.

*Worship & Music/Evangelism & Social Ministries: did not meet

*Finance: Their main focus is the budget.

*Property: The gas bill is very high. The council agreed that it would be a good idea to use the budget plan. They are also checking into a high efficiency boiler. They are still looking into a new sign for in front of the church and making the education wing door automatic for the handicap entrance.

*Youth: They will go snow tubing January 29th. There will be a fundraiser of selling appetizers for the Super Bowl. They will serve a meal for Lent. Easter breakfast will be served this year. It will be before service since

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we have the late service. An informational meeting about the National Youth Gathering will be held to get more information out to kids and parents. The Youth will also serve one coffee hour a month to raise funds.

Old Business:

The company we bought the used copier from is still waiting on a part before they can deliver it to us.

Budget: Change the youth director position to 15 hours. Snow removal costs were discussed.

The Annual Meeting will be January 22nd at 9:30 am. Paul Missling and Kyla Schlomann's terms expire and will need to be filled.

New Business:

They are going to check into new phones for the building.

Motion by Miest, seconded by Watson to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting will be February 8th at 7:00 pm.

Lisa Carlson, Acting Secretary

AUGUSTANA WELCA BOARD MINUTES – January 11, 2023

Present: Judy Berg, Becky Cobb, Nancy Kunkel, Jeanne Miest, Jayne Anderson

Judy read from Psalm 139:7-12.

Secretary's Report from November 9, 2022 was approved.

Treasurer's Report from November and December was approved.

Becky asked to reassess line items. It was decided line items would be: Circles, Conference/Convention Offering, St. Lucia Free Will Offering, St. Lucia Bake Shop, Synod Offering, ThankOffering, Undesignated.

Old Business:

St. Lucia monies: It was decided that 10% of the money will go equally to St. Lucia, Youth Gathering, Mumbai, Food Shelf, Yellow Ribbon, High School Pantry, WellSpring, Bible Camp, Stained Glass, Radio, and Missionary Sponsor.

Baby Shower for Jesus - was a success! Many donations of baby items. Cash donations and money left on the Thrivent card will go to purchase more items and given to Human Services.

New Business:

Bold Women's Sunday - March 5th. We will be serving brunch after the service. WELCA has a program for us to use. Our women will participate in the service as ushers, speakers, music, and communion. ThankOffering money will go to the Synod.

Lenten meal - We will serve the March 29th meal.

God's Work Our Hands - Ideas are to paint the shelter at Meadow Lark and honoring our school bus drivers.

Other - Valentine cards will be written for all shut ins during coffee hour on February 5th.

We will plan to go to Brandt Ridge in the spring to play games. Residents of Prairie View will be invited as well.

Suggestion was made to have Council members and, possibly AES Council members, available during coffee hour on a regular basis for Coffee With Council, to address questions/concerns.

Donations and Thank Yous - Thank you received from Camp Noah, for activity kits. Donation to CrossRoad's \$100.

Our next meeting will be February 12th, during coffee hour in the Social Hall.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Anderson

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2023

President Mark Kulseth called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

Pastor Mandy led us in an Opening Liturgy.

Mark asked for additions to agenda – there were none.

Mark appointed Deanna Hoffman, acting secretary, for the meeting.

Deanna was asked to give an update on giving and envelopes. There is a delay with Church Windows due to paper shortage and problems with staffing for their peak season. They hope to ship this next week.

Minutes of the annual meeting on January 23, 2022, were approved. Motion by Greg Thulien, seconded by Stan Kunkel, and passed with no objections.

Committee and organization reports are listed in the annual report. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the committee.

Mark Larson stated that he, Jackie Harrington, & Jim Moody audited the books for WELCA, Churchmen, Youth, and church funds. There were no issues found. Thank you to Judy Thulien for the well-organized records. Motion by Les Zellmann, seconded by Lynn Watson, and carried to approve the report.

Reflections of success were noted with the campout at East being very successful and noting that it will be planned again for next summer. Thank you Mark for all the additional set up you took care of.

Terry Engel reported for the Nominating Committee. Lynn Watson and Dean Swenstad have agreed to a second term. Kyla Schломann and Paul Missling's terms have completed with 6 years served. Stan Kunkel and Jeff Price were elected to fill the two seats. This is a 3-year term. Mark thanked all who agreed to run and stated that the election was very close. One council member and one member at large are needed for the AES Joint Council. Election named Stan Kunkel for council seat and Kari Miest for member at large. This is a 2-year term. Terry also noted that John Coleman, Jayne Anderson, Kyla Schломann, Jeanne Miest, Paul Missling and he are the nominating committee for 2024. Installation for the councils will be on Sunday, February 5th during the worship service.

Judy Thulien explained the budget for 2023. Two items have been added to the general fund budgeted expenses. First is a budgeted expense for Continuing Education which is a 3-year commitment and the second one is for Sabbatical Leave. The council voted to add this (per Synod Guidelines) to our budget. A rostered minister can take a fully funded Sabbatical Leave for 3 months after 5 years of service. This was approved by Council, and this is to place funds in a special account to build for when it is used.

Budget was approved – motion by Lynn Watson, seconded by Stan Kunkel, and carried.

Under old business: Stained Glass Windows are completed for phase 1. We have asked for a bid for the East side but have not heard back yet. It is noted if we receive a bid and want to confirm – a 30% down payment is required to secure a slot.

New Business:

Election of Congregational President: Deanna Hoffman nominated Mark Kulseth, there were no other nominations and Terry Engel motioned that nominations cease. Approved

Projects for 2023:

Stained glass project to continue. Waiting for a bid from Watson's for a new boiler to replace our very old inefficient one. A handicap button to open the door in Fireside entry. Mark stated that there is an anonymous donor who has challenged to match up to half of the estimated \$4,000.

Roof in the Education addition. Roof is flat, so leaks are a problem and has no insulation. A new angle roof is recommended.

Greg Thulien noted that with our parking lot, we need a better entry on the back side to enter church, plus handicap parking is back there, so they need to walk around the church to gain access. At funerals it is common for people to go up the stairs inside the door and enter through the altar/casket or urn space. Jayne Anderson asked that the Council consider setting up a "coffee with the board" at one coffee hour a month for updates.

Time & Talents volunteers are needed. Please consider any help you can donate to our many projects.

No further business.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary, Deanna Hoffman,

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EPIPHANY

Epiphany begins with evening prayer on January 5 and ends the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. This season of lights emphasized Jesus' manifestation (or epiphany) as God and man. The earliest Christians called the Feast of the Epiphany the Theophany ("revelation of God"). When the Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God's temple to worship, because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh.

The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6) marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi.

Epiphany may include as many as nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

~~ Like Christmas, the Epiphany of Our Lord, the Baptism of Our Lord, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord are feast days of Jesus. The color for feast days is white, the color of divinity, purity, and joy. The Sundays after the Epiphany focus on the growth of Jesus' ministry, and the color green is used to symbolize that growth.

~~ On the First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. The Father sent Jesus to bear the sins of the world. So Jesus steps down into baptismal waters so that He can soak up the sins of the world: He is baptized into our sins so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

~~ The Feast of the Transfiguration, celebrated on the last Sunday in the Epiphany season, is a significant and uniquely Lutheran contribution to the Christian calendar. This festival commemorates the moment of the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus' disciples glimpse their Lord in divine splendor, seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Jesus proclaims to His disciples, then and now, that He is the long-awaited one who has come to die for the sins of the world and be raised again in glory.

~~ The Transfiguration of Our Lord is the last Sunday before Lent. Because we give up singing *Alleluia* during Lent, at the close of the service on Transfiguration we say farewell to *Alleluia*.

When nothing goes right ... go left!

A closed mouth gathers no feet!

*Nothing ventured, nothing gained—but if everything is ventured,
and still nothing gained,
give up and venture elsewhere.*

- Peter Wastholm

AES MINISTRIES
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ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA 56081
TELEPHONE: 507-375-4792

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Love is patient
love is tender-hearted;
love doesn't resent someone else doing well;
love doesn't try to impress;
love doesn't embarrass others or bully
love doesn't easily lose its cool or hold a grudge;
love doesn't enjoy finding things to criticize,
but is happy when everything is honest and genuine.
Love puts up with all kinds of difficulty;
love is open-minded and looks on the bright side;
love sticks at it and never admits defeat.

--I Corinthians 13:4-7

Good As New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures



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

