

**Congregations joined in faith and fellowship to spread God's love.
AES Ministries Mission Statement**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021 (A)
Council Installation - Augustana
Planting – Farming - Gardening Sunday – East Sveadah
AES Ministries — Pastor Gene Alms
In Sanctuary Worship at Augustana; Outside Worship at East
9:00 am Communion Worship at East
10:30 am Communion Worship at Augustana on Facebook**

Welcome

Gathering Litany / Prayer of Confession

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW #389

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.**
- 3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.**
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

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Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you". Lord, thank you for all the ways you make your presence known each day. Help us settle into joy for this moment. Give us your spirit and awaken our hunger for doing your will. Stir up within us insight for seeing the new things you are doing. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Children's Time

Greeting Each Other

First Lesson Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

(continued)

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. **Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day **At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing** **vss. 1-4 ELW #362**

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious king, who has washed us in the tide flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!**
- 2 Praise we Christ, whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine, gives his body for the feast— Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!**
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured death's dread angel sheathes the sword; Israel's hosts triumphant Go through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!**
- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal victim, paschal bread; with sincerity and love eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt Music: Bohemian Brethern, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566 Arg. © CPH Publishing (SESAC) Permissions Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S Jefferson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63118 OneLicense A-725695 Text & Tune: Public Domain

Installation of Church Council 2021

P: Today we are installing the 2021 Church Council and our participants on the AES Council. Will all members of the 2021 councils stand where you are.

You have been called by God and chosen by these people for leadership in the church. This is a joyful blessing, and an incredible opportunity in the midst of this transition time. In love we thank you for accepting these responsibilities. We are grateful for the skills and talents you bring. And we ask you to help us learn about ourselves and God's preferred future for us. Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world, to Augustana Lutheran Church, and AES Ministries?

Response: I will.

P: Will you guide us to be a people of love and peace?

Response: I will.

P: Will you have good humor, an open mind, and an inquisitive spirit as you step into the tasks for which you have been chosen?

Response: I will.

P: (to Congregation) Will you encourage, support, and listen to these leaders you have elected?

C: We will!

P: Will you be open to God's leading? Will you pay attention to new directions and possibilities that emerge as we seek God's future?

C: We will!

P: Will you support our work with your financial gifts and with regular participation?

C: We will!

P: Will you assist and encourage this council in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your wisdom, and your prayers?

C: We will.

P: Thank You! (to congregation) Will you please raise your right hands as we ask God to bless these people and the year ahead.

C: Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon this church council for 2021. Give them joy as they seek to do your will. Keep before them the example of Jesus, who taught LOVE is the core of every commandment. Guide them in their work. Empower them with faithfulness for serving you. Remind us - It is through us that your purposes will be accomplished. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Nicene Creed

We believe in the one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophet. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all especially . . . Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation

Remembering Jesus' Words

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing the Meal Together

Blessing

Announcements



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We welcome all who worship with us today. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

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

Some of the COVID Worship protocols have changed. You can sing along and respond in the appropriate places -- **wearing your mask!** Thank you for adhering to these guidelines. If you need a mask, they are available in both churches!

The vote on Sunday, April 25, 2021 in both congregations was "YES" to extend the call to **Pastor Amanda France.**

(continued)

AES Prayer Concerns: The family of Lynda Overson, Melissa Anderson-sister of Melanie Fredin, Bill Freitag, Vince Pederson, Gerry Swenson, Steven Olson, 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.

Activities this week: May 3 – May 9:

Monday	10:00 am Weekly Prayer meeting on Zoom
Tuesday	9:30 am Rebecca Circle, Fireside Room 2:15 pm Augustana worship on cable tv
Wednesday	12:30 pm Devotions with Lyla on Facebook 4:00 pm 7 th grade confirmation, Augustana 6:30 pm AES Council, Augustana
Sunday	9:00 am Worship Service in Sanctuary on Facebook, East 10:30 am Communion Worship Service in Sanctuary, Augustana 11:30 am Radio Broadcast on 1370 AM

East Sveadahl Annual meeting and Cemetery Association meeting is TODAY Sunday, May 2, 2021 following the worship service. A box lunch will be available after the meeting.

There will be another **Free Food Distribution** (produce, dairy, protein) on **Friday, May 7th** at Memorial Park from 4-6 pm or until the 700 boxes are gone. Open to all households in need! There is a **need for volunteers** for the Food Distribution as well as need to get the word spread. Below is the link to sign up to volunteer for this event or any time at the food shelf.

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

The **Watonwan County Food Shelf** has moved to 113 7th St. S. (the former bowling alley). Starting Wednesday, April 28th new hours will be every Wednesday – 10 am-Noon; the 2nd and 4th Thursdays – 10 am-Noon and 5:00-6:30 pm. The phone number is 507-621-4264; email is wcfoodshelf@gmail.com; website is www.wcfoodshelf.org; Facebook is @watonwancountyfoodshelf.

The Relay for Life Committee is planning a kickoff to jump start our **Relay for Life events for this year!** Join us for a sloppy joe meal which includes beans, chips, and a cookie at the Legion in St. James from 11 am – 1 pm on . The meal is available with a free will donation. You may dine inside (we will have Covid safety measures in place), or swing through the drive through (in the alley behind the legion) to pick up food. A raffle table will be available and door prizes will be given away hourly. Luminaria and posters will be available for purchase for our Relay for Life event scheduled for July 23 at the Fairgrounds in St. James.

Becky Cobb and Jo Howe host an **old-fashioned weekly prayer meeting** every week on Monday morning at 10:00 am via Zoom. The link to join is found below. If you have a prayer request, please email or call the church, and it will be added to our prayers. Click Here to Join the Zoom Meeting:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77502081644?pwd=NTdkeXB6TUJrazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>