

**Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021 (E)
Planting – Farming - Gardening Sunday – East Sveadahl
Council Installation - Augustana
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

Lift High the Cross

#660

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain:

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain:

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain:

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain:

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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?" 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.**

(continued)

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#742

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to care ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged -take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

Text: Joseph Scrivern, 1820-1886 Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918 Text & Music: Public Domain

Planting – Farming – Gardening Sunday

P: O LORD, you bless us with changing seasons! Thank you for the beautify that is unfolding right before us. Stir up joy among us as we anticipate the Spring weather ahead. This is the season for new life, for awakening soils, for budding trees, and planting seeds. We ask that you sanction our seeds and give vitality and strength to the plants that will emerge. Bless our gardens and fields. Fill them with the miracle of life as we witness your bounty and goodness.

C: Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.
(Jeremiah 17:7-8)

P: Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. (Psalm 1:12)

C: That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

P: Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from among them.” (John 7:37b-38)

C: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. (Revelation 7:17)

P: And Jesus said “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12:24b NIV)

C: Today we celebrate Planting-Farming-Gardening Sunday. Thanks be to God who provides the sunshine and the rain. Amen

Provided by National Association of Conservation Districts

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.

(continued)

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!

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.

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

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 7th 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

(continued)

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.

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.

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>

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>

The Relay for Life Committee is planning a kickoff to jump start our **Relay 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 Sunday, May 16. 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.