

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



FALL EDUCATION PLANS

TLC

The Education Committee met on July 19th, 2022. After thoughtful and lengthy discussion, the committee unanimously approved moving our TLC Pre-K - 6th Grade programming to Sunday morning for the 2022-2023 school year.

We are recommending this change as we currently do not have a TLC Director or enough volunteers/teachers available on Wednesday afternoons to continue the current Wednesday programming.

The Sunday morning programming will still include music, Bible lesson, craft/game, snack, and occasional Sunday student musical performances during worship. We are working on being able to provide Sunday morning transportation.

There will be more details being sent out to TLC families in the near future. We are looking forward to a great year of TLC and cannot wait to see you all this Fall!

AES Education Committee

Questions or Concerns: Please contact Paul Missling or Erica Garza for Augustana or Debbie Anderson for East Sveadahl.

CONFIRMATION

There will be a Parent/Guardian and Student Confirmation informational meeting on Wednesday, September 14th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Augustana.

Those attending confirmation this year – 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders – are required to attend along with a parent/guardian.

The 10th graders will receive information about Confirmation Sunday at this meeting.

The Confirmation Sunday will be October 30, 2022.

Pastor's Column

August 2022

Dear Members of AES,

As we dream of the future ministry of AES, the possibility of hiring a full-time youth director along with First Presbyterian has been discussed. This discussion is in the early stages. The leading point that brought us to even begin these conversations was the fact that we had advertised for a part-time position on our own for over 6 weeks with very few resumes turned in and no qualified applicants.

I have been asked by a few members “How would it work to share a staff person across denominations? Isn't the theology different?” These are great questions to ask. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Presbyterian Church (USA) have been full Communion partners since 1997. Full communion partnership is when two denominations develop a relationship based on a common confessing of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of Baptism and sharing of the Lord's Supper. This does not mean the two denominations merge; rather, in reaching agreements, denominations also respect differences. These denominations worship together, share a commitment to evangelism, and also may exchange clergy. It is because of our full communion partnership that I could actually be a Pastor at a Presbyterian church and preside over the Lord's Supper.

The ELCA is in full communion partnerships with other denominations as well. We are in full communion with the Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, Moravian Church, and United Methodist Church. If you are interested in learning more about full communion partnership, the ELCA Website has several resources that you can read.

Again, we are in early discussions with the Presbyterians regarding the possibility of sharing a full-time hired youth director between AES and First Presbyterian. I hope this helps explain a little more, however, about how different denominations work together.

In Christ,
Pastor Mandy France

AUGUSTANA - August**CIRCLES**

August 3: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle - Fireside

USHERS

Bob Plath, John Coleman, Andrew Farr,
Stan Kunkel, Janet Plath, Kyla Schlomann,
Lloyd & Andrea Sandberg

LECTORS

August 7: Jodi Coleman
14: Ruth Haler
21: Deb Style
28: Leora Ask

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.

ALTAR GUILD

Lisa Carlson, Leora Ask, Janice Vetter,
Judy Engelking, Tami Larson, Jo Howe

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Viola Sandberg**
\$10.00 – Music/Technology

COMMUNION SERVERS

August 7: Lyle Anderson and Dean Swenstad
14: Darrick Miest, Mark Kulseth,
Sandy Berg, Lynn Watson

**Friendship isn't about who
you've known the longest.
It's about who walked into your life,
said "I'm here for you"
and proved it!**

AUGUSTANA**TRANSITIONS**

The funeral service for **DeeAnn (Ask) Peterson** will be August 13, 2022, at Augustana. Visitation begins at 10 am; Family Service at 10:45 am in the Fireside Room; Funeral Service is at 11:00 am.

Cards can be sent to Darrell & Leora Ask,
67437 370th St., Butterfield, MN 56120

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

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

RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.

East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month, and the last two of the four 5th Sundays of 2022. Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month, and the first two of the four 5th Sundays of 2022. To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

August 28th: Available

COFFEE HOUR

August 7: Available
14: Available
21: Available
28: Available

ELECTRONIC GIVING

1. Electronically: visit church web site and on the "Secure Contributions" tab
2. Secure Contributions: visit the church website www.augustanachurch.org
3. Give+Text: from your phone, text number is 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,
ddesigns@mchsi.com

Joy is not in things; it is in us.

EAST**TRANSITIONS:**

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through June	\$38,134.98
Received through June	34,132.77
Behind through June	- \$ 4,002.21
Received in June	\$ 3,036.24

Happy Birthday
Happy Baptismal Date

- 1 Ron Askeland [9-8]
Gavin Messen [9-23]
- 4 Jim Callahan [9-20]
- 5 Samuel Braaten [6-7]
- 8 Matthew Anderson [9-3]
- 11 Mary Davey [9-9]
- 12 Matthew Fisch [9-24]
Julene Hoffman [9-16]
- 13 Andrew Beck [9-25]
- 14 Jeren Marxen [-73]
- 15 Noah Frances [10-12]
- 20 Tim Anderson [10-8]
- 21 Keith Newberg [9-30]
- 23 Dean Anderson [9-4]
- 24 Lori Urevig [9-24]
- 25 Chad Urevig [9-14]
- 26 Evonne Moll [10-6]

USHERS

Don and Tammy Rathman

CONGRATULATIONS TO

the Bryon Christenson family
honored as the Watonwan County Farm Family
of 2022
at the Watonwan County Fair.

EAST**AUGUST RADIO BROADCASTS**

August 7: East Sveadahl (switched with First)
14: Augustana
21: First Lutheran, St. James
28: East Sveadahl

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll, Pat Buse

VISITING COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll and Pat Buse

COMMUNION

Evonne Moll, Tom Anderson

LECTORS

August 7: Evonne Moll
14: Joint Service at Augustana
21: Paul, Cindy Torkelson
28: Kris Suess

RADIO SPONSORS

August 28: Switch with Augustana because of the
Joint worship service there on the 14th
September 11:
October 9:
October 30:
We need sponsors for the above broadcasts!
If you would like to be a sponsor, please
contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00.

BOOK CLUB

The next East Book Club read is If Grace
Is True by Phillip Gulley. Extra books are
available at the East Sveadahl Library.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Janet Bloomquist
honored as the Watonwan County Senior
Citizen of 2022
at the Watonwan County Fair.



AES AUGUST NEWS



BLUE GRASS WORSHIP ~~ YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Bully Pulpit will be part of the Joint Blue Grass Worship Service on Sunday, August 14th at **10:45 am** at **Augustana**. Following the service, a noon meal (Swedish Meatballs) will be served with all donations going into the AES Youth Fund. All are welcome! Come for a fun filled worship service!

AUGUSTANA TECHNOLOGY TEAM ~~ Tuesday, August 9th

A long-time member who no longer can attend in person tells us "The technology is so good I feel like I'm right back in my pew. I'm still connected to my church." The new technology in use at Augustana and the people who run it make a real difference in the lives of Augustana's faith community.

Does being part of the Augustana Technology Team interest you? You're invited to a training session at 6 pm, Tuesday, August 9. This introductory class will be a good way to find out if this service opportunity is right for you. Going forward, we hope to have two or three persons work together on Sunday mornings. The Facebook livestream is appreciated by many.

GREEN LAKE CAMPERS

Attending Green Lake Bible Camp the weeks of July 24-28 or July 31-August 4 were **Dacen Anderson, Erick and Vincent Avila, Abigail Meyer, and Halle and Morgan Reid.**

BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATION

Pr. Mandy invites you to Noah's 3rd birthday party in the large shelter at Memorial Park near the playground from 2-4 pm on Saturday, August 20th. All are welcome to attend his "Party Animal" zoo themed birthday! Treats and beverages provided.

PASTOR MANDY WILL BE GONE

Pr. Mandy will be gone Tuesday, August 22nd through Thursday, August 25th. Deacon Lyla will be on call.

WALKING CLUB

The AES Walking Club walks on! People of all ages and abilities are welcome! Meet in front of Augustana on Tuesday mornings at 6:30 am and/or Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm.

We start with a short Scripture passage, walk, and end with a prayer. Plan for 45 minutes to an hour. If it rains, Walking Club is cancelled.

PRAISE AT THE PUB

Come join us for "Praise at the Pub" at the Eagles on Thursday August 25th from 7-8 pm. "Praise at the Pub" is a casual, laid-back hymn sing. You can order food, a beverage (alcoholic or non) and enjoy fellowship in a new environment. You do not need to drink an alcoholic beverage to be part of this. This event is completely optional for anyone who would like to attend!

PRAYER MEETINGS

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.

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

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: The bulletins are posted weekly on the AES Ministries website home page.

PASTOR VISITS

Our Pastors would like to visit you! If you would like to be visited in your home, in the hospital, wherever, please contact them: Pr. Mandy 651-800-6672 or 375-4792 and Visitation Deacon Lyla Klee at 507-439-6940 and her cell 507-227-9250.

PRAYERS and PRAISES

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

THANK YOU

The Youth Committee would like to Thank everyone who helped and donated food for the Auction Fundraiser that the youth helped serve at on June 30th. It was a great success because of all of you. The youth raised \$368.

Thank You So Much – All our woofers and meowers thank you so much for your \$79.21 donation to our group. Your kindness makes a difference in their lives, and we all appreciate your support!

Ann Hofstad, Watonwan County Humane Society

Dear Friend and Sponsor: The St. James Police Department would like to express our sincere thanks for financially supporting our child safety and drug education program. ... we are able to provide child safety and drug education programs for our children as well as parents and senior citizens. ...

Yours in Safety, Service and Protection, Rochelle A. Hanson, Chief of Police

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATONWAN COUNTY FOOD SHELF PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

The produce distributions in August are Thursday, August 11th and 25th at the Food Shelf. As always, ANYONE is able to attend these FREE produce distributions; there are no income restrictions. Bring your own boxes or bags.

If you are interested in volunteering, or have a group interested in volunteering, please call the Food Shelf or register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA4AC2FA2FACE9-watonwan>

FAMILY MEAL GIVEAWAY

Nutritious and delicious family meals, serving up to four people, are prepared in a 13 x 9 pan. Meals vary weekly on a first come, first served basis.

Anyone can receive them. There are no income requirements, and no questions asked.

They can be picked up every Thursday from 5:30 – 6:30 pm through December 2022. There will be no giveaway on Thanksgiving Day.

Pick up at: Madelia – Madelia Elementary – Cafeteria Door

St. James – Northside Elementary – Front Loop

Butterfield – Butterfield-Odin School – Kitchen Doors

WELLSPRING

Wellspring is presenting a Dementia Friends Information Session on Wednesday, August 10th, at 12:00 noon at the Community Building led by Kim Askeland and Karen Dahl. Dessert and coffee will be served. Call Wellspring at 375-1276 to register.

SAFE HAVEN / SECURE SEARCH -- AES MINISTRIES - July 7, 2022

On December 14, 2016, Augustana Council approved the SAFE HAVEN model for the Protection of All People from Abuse. East approved the model June 10, 2021, and AES approved the policy on June 2, 2021. This protection policy is based on materials provided by the Southwestern MN Synod of the ELCA. These dates here are not typos: this has been a long process, somewhat delayed by the pandemic.

The Safe Haven committee members: Judy Berg, Jill Beckius, Lori Urevig, and Becky Cobb have reviewed materials and are in collaboration with Secure Search, the company suggested by our Synod, to provide background checks for those paid staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children.

As stated in the document approved in 2016, “We believe that having a policy like this in place will equip our staff and volunteers to be better servants of children, youth and vulnerable adults and will protect them from situations that put them at risk of a misunderstanding or false accusation.” The document approved by Councils is on file in the church office if you would like to read it.

Background checks will commence next week (July 11th) and will be in place for Fall programming. Thank you in advance for your support in providing a “Safe Haven” for all God’s children in our congregational life.

AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES – July 7, 2022

The AES Joint Council met on Thursday, July 7, 2022, at Augustana. Those present were Tom Anderson, Sandy Berg, Janet Bloomquist, Becky Cobb, Deanna Hoffman, Mike Menssen, Pr. Mandy, and Susan Anderson. Teresa Andrews and Mark Kulseth were absent.

Becky Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm with a quorum present. She opened the meeting by asking for prayer concerns.

Pr. Mandy led us in prayer

A motion was made by Deanna, seconded by Sandy, and carried to approve the June minutes.

Pastor Mandy’s report:

- She has been busy visiting with our members.
- VBS was successful with around 50 children attending from AES Ministries and First Presbyterian. A video was made which will be shown at both churches. First Presbyterian offered to host VBS in 2023.
- Her vacation time with family was very much appreciated.

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- The Youth Camp Out is coming up. The Youth Committee will meet on the 10th & 18th to finalize plans. The number of youth attending is going up – 23 have registered so far. A number of projects have been lined up for Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS

Safe Haven – Secure Search is in place. Becky shared an announcement that will be handed out on Sunday, July 10th. Background checks will begin the week of July 11th for anyone involved with our youth.

The Council spent a great deal of time discussing the Wednesday TLC program -- what is working, what isn't working, what can we do to improve the program, how can we get more families involved, what can we revamp, going back to a regular Sunday morning Sunday school. The school's policy of leaving Sundays and Wednesdays for church activities has changed. No decisions were made. There will be a planning meeting for TLC on July 19th.

Another topic of discussion was the Youth Director position. Members of the AES Council and Pr. Mandy have met with members of First Presbyterian to discuss the possibility of sharing a youth director. The Council agreed that not all members of AES Ministries had information regarding the position. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Tom, to inform each congregation of what the position of a full time Youth Director entails at a Sunday morning service. Motion carried. Tom will talk to East and Deanna will talk to Augustana on Sunday, July 10th.

All agreed that participating in the Railroad Days Parade was successful and well received. Plans are to participate again next year.

NEW BUSINESS

An idea was brought forward that each church should provide a Superintendent to help with the TLC program. It would be a position much like the Sunday School Superintendent of years past. This position would be in place until a Youth Director is found.

AES Ministries will celebrate Christmas in July on July 17th. Come celebrate this special holiday!

The Council gave Pr. Mandy their support and approval for her to conduct and adjust the upcoming confirmation program dates and times to the needs of the students.

Pr. Mandy needs help with summer Sunday morning childcare in both churches. The Council agreed to help her find someone.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 4th at 7:00 pm at Augustana.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

EAST SVEADAHL COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 14, 2022

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on July 14, 2022, at 7 p.m. at church. Those present were Tom Anderson, Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Evonne Moll, Dana Avila, Erma Griffith, Lori Urevig, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Mandy.

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming.

The June 9, 2022, secretary's report was presented and approved as read.

In the absence of Sonja Coleman, the Financial Secretary's report was presented by Tom, and Evonne Moll, Treasurer, presented her report. A motion by Erma, seconded by Wayne, and passed to accept the reports as given.

The AES council minutes were highlighted by Tom and are in the newsletter.

Pastor Mandy gave her report:

- Christmas in July service is July 17 at both churches.
- July 24 Deacon Lyla Klee will be our worship leader.
- July 30 is the youth campout and July 31 is the annual AES picnic with an outside service being planned weather permitting. Twenty-six youth are signed up for the campout and they will do community

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service projects during the day, followed by supper, and a concert. The youth will be part of the service on Sunday also.

- The tentative August 21 Sunday service at Pleasant View may not happen due to COVID safety. We will notify everyone closer to the date.
- Tuesday, July 19 there will be a planning meeting for the TLC program. As of yet, AES does not have a Youth Director in place so the possibility of each church appointing a superintendent for the program may be an option. Volunteers will also be needed.
- A Faith in the Field bonfire service was presented as a possibility in August.

Church Secretary, Susan Anderson, presented the options for extra candle holders on the altar. A motion by Wayne, seconded by Lori, and passed to purchase two new candle holders for the altar at an approximate cost of \$700.00. Some memorial money has been given to help with the cost.

The annual AES picnic was discussed along with the youth campout and the plans for food, etc. are taken care of. Thanks to Thrivent, both events have received a \$250.00 gift card to help defray the cost.

Lori updated us on the technology in church.

A motion by Janet, seconded by Erma, and passed to give the July noisy offering to the Pleasant View activity fund.

Tom read a thank you from the Watonwan County Human Society for the donation and from Rochelle Hanson, St. James Police Department, for the Operation Safety Program donation that was made.

As there was no further business, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next church council meeting will be August 11, 2022, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – July 13, 2022

Present: Sandy Berg, Pastor Mandy, Paul Missling, Kyla Schломann, Kirsten Freitag, Mark Kulseth, Lyle Anderson, Lynn Watson, Darrick Meist, Deanna Hoffman, Kristi Zellmann

Absent: Dean Swenstad, Jill Beckius, Lisa Carlson, Judy Thulien

- Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Devotions were given by Kirsten.
- Lynn made a motion, seconded by Kyla to approve the minutes from the June meeting with one correction ...should have stated Kyla Schломann, not Kyla Kunkel. Motion carried.
- Mark shared the Treasurer's Report in Judy's absence. No questions raised. Lynn made a motion, seconded by Kristi to approve the report as printed. Motion carried.
- Deanna presented the giving report. Still behind in giving, year to date.

Pastor Mandy-

- Has been doing visits with Deacon Lyla
- Trying to focus on more relationship building with members
- Has had an increase in Pastoral Care needs - illness, death, etc.
- Christmas in July is July 17th
- Will be conducting the funeral service for DeAnn Ask Peterson in August
- A baptism is scheduled for August 7th
- Youth service day, campout and Rachel Kurtz concert is July 30th with the youth helping with the joint worship service on the 31st at East, followed by the church picnic.
- There will be a TLC meeting on Tuesday, July 19th, for fall planning
- Ticket information for the Watonwan County Entertainment series will be available at church. Watch for details...there are 12 concerts this year.
- There is still interest in Direct Deposit for paychecks and there is a program called "Zelle" that will allow this to happen. Judy Thulien and Pastor Mandy will follow up on what needs to be done to make this happen.

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AES Ministries

- There was an interview for the Youth Director position, but the applicant would not meet the needs of the position due to other commitments.
- Safe Haven policy is complete and background checks will commence now for those paid staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children. Printed information about the policy was provided for members at worship.

Education - committee didn't meet

Evangelism/Social Ministry/Worship and Music - Come Let Us Worship God: Going forward, we'll shorten the Gospel Acclamation and offertory, and install a clock at Pastor Mandy's request to help gauge the time.

Bluegrass Sunday service and fundraiser, August 14th: Members of the community are welcome. Pastor Mandy and Terry are coordinating the liturgy and service plans with Bully Pulpit. Pastor Mandy plans to give a devotion rather than a full sermon. Communion will be continuous. The youth will participate as ushers, readers, and leading the prayers. They'll also serve lunch.

Technology Update: A 2-hour session starting at 6 pm is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9th.

TLC: A meeting to discuss the path forward for TLC is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19th. The meeting will focus on the purpose of TLC, and how best to work toward that purpose.

Pastor Mandy wants the youth to sing Sunday mornings every six weeks.

Evangelism/Social Ministry Update: Lisa prepared job descriptions for both committees and gave them to Lauren.

Wedding/Funeral Guidelines: Current guidelines do not address costs for videography, etc. The current booklet needs an update. Tabled until later date

Pub Praise: We are still exploring dates and a venue for a hymn sing outreach.

Communion Server Guidelines: The posted guidelines for communion servers are out-of-date. Kristi worked with Pastor Mandy to update them and provide new guidelines to the council.

Finance - committee didn't meet

Deanna said there is still a need for a locked cabinet for her office as personal giving is to remain confidential. A cabinet will be secured for this purpose.

Property/Cemetery - the stained-glass project is supposed to start late July or August. Darrick will follow up as needed. Bob Plath has done extra work at the cemetery cleaning up vines, trees, etc. THANK YOU, Bob!

Youth - a lot of planning has gone into the July 30/31 event. Youth will be offering a car wash at church, working at the Food Shelf, washing windows, and pulling weeds as some of the service projects.

Old Business

July 31st - Joint Worship at East at 10 AM with the picnic to follow. Augustana is responsible for paperware, salads (will serve potato salad and coleslaw,) and dessert (will have ice cream cups and cookies).

Blue Grass Service - August 14th. A Swedish Meatball meal will be served as a youth fundraiser.

New Business

Youth Director position - conversation is occurring with the Presbyterian church as they are also looking for someone part time. By combining with them, a full-time position would be available. The council needs feedback from members regarding this plan.

St. Lucia - Deanna asked about what the plan would be as far as St. Lucia this year. It was decided that as of right now, the celebration could be planned as it has been in the past.

Mileage for Rachel Kurtz (performer for the concert at East the eve of July 30th) - Kristi motioned with a second from Lynn to pay her mileage at the current mileage rate of \$.62/mile. Motion carried.

--The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:55 PM. Next council meeting is August 10 at 7 PM. Lisa will have devotions.

Respectfully submitted - Kristi Zellmann, Council Secretary

AES MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 151
St. James, MN 56081
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Address Service Requested



AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

August 14th
Joint AES Worship
10:45 am
Augustana
Blue Grass Worship
Bully Pulpit
Youth Fundraiser Lunch
Swedish Meatballs



AES MINISTRIES

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

