

# AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



### **AES Youth Turkey Supper Fundraiser**

**Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Cost is \$10 per Person  
Checks can be made out to  
AES Youth**

**Find a Youth to purchase a ticket  
or tickets can be purchased at the  
Augustana church Office.**



## **AUGUSTANA**

### **CIRCLES**

November 1: 9:00 am Martha Circle – Fireside  
 7: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle - Fireside  
 November 21: 9:00 am Sewing Circle

### **USHERS**

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

### **LECTORS**

November 5: Deb Style  
 12: Tristan Shores  
 19: Terry Engel  
 26: Jaydyn Moll

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

November 5: Dean Swenstad & Sandy Berg  
 12: Lisa Carlson & Lyle Anderson

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Lisa Carlson, Leora Ask, Janice Vetter,  
 Judy Engelking, Tami Larson, Heather Missling

### **MEMORIALS**

In memory of *Lois Hultgren*  
 \$20.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund  
 \$150 – Undesignated  
 \$10 – Green Lake Ministries

In memory of *Ileane Voth*  
 \$35.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund  
 \$155 – Undesignated  
 \$10.00 – Green Lake Ministries

In memory of *Claude & Edith Seal*  
 \$250.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund

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### **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING**

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> with Deb Style

### **NOISY OFFERING**

November 29<sup>th</sup>: Sharing Tree

## **AUGUSTANA**

### **TRANSISTIONS**

#### **Funerals**

A Celebration of Life was held for *Lois Hultgren*  
 on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at Augustana.  
 Lois passed away August 27, 2023.

A Celebration of Life was held for *Doraine Starks*  
 on Friday, October 20, 2023  
 Doraine passed away on October 14, 2023.

May God's peace comfort their family and friends.

### **RADIO INFORMATION - 1370 AM**

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.  
 East sponsors the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month,  
 and the last two of the four 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of 2022.  
 Augustana sponsors the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month,  
 and the first two of the four 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of 2022.  
 To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

November 19<sup>th</sup>: Available

### **ELECTRONIC GIVING**

1. Electronically: visit church web site and on the "Secure Contributions" tab
2. Secure Contributions: visit the church website [www.aeslutheran.org](http://www.aeslutheran.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,  
[d designs@mchsi.com](mailto:d designs@mchsi.com)

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### **GREETERS**

November 5: Deanna Hoffman  
 12: Darrick & Kari Miest  
 19: Bill & Kirsten Freitag  
 26: Doug Erdal

**EAST****RADIO BROADCASTS**

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

**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Sonja Coleman and Julene Hoffman

**VISITING COMMITTEE**

Deb Anderson and Charlotte Johnson

**USHERS**

Bryon and Kathy Christenson Family

**LECTORS**

Nov. 5: Evonne Moll  
 12: Paul & Cindy Torkelson  
 19: Sonja Coleman  
 24: Wayne Jurgens

**RADIO SPONSORS**

November 12:  
 December 10:  
 December 31:

Sponsors are need for these three broadcasts. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Susan. The cost is \$40.00 per broadcast.

**WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The WELCA Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Invite your guests now, then let Julene (317-3457) or Deb (381-4207) know the number of guests you are bringing. Come help ring in the Christmas Season!

**EAST****TRANSITIONS:**

The Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation service was held for **Erick Mario Avila** on Sunday, October 29, 2023. Continue to pray for Erick as he grows in faith.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Matt, Mike, Jamie, Marie, Wynette, Joann, Wilma, Darryl, Phyllis, Tim, Kathy, Sam, Erma, Bruce, Jana, Tom, Chloe, Orval, Mary Ann

**STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:**

Needed through September	\$61,552.53
Received through September	64,906.29
Behind through September	+ \$ 3,353.76
Received in September:	\$ 5,108.23

**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY!**

**HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!**

3 Jarah Hagen (12-8)  
 Pr. Kelly Frances ( )  
 11 Michael Suarez (4-14)  
 12 Rebecca Christenson (1-27)  
 14 Nathan Ewert (12-1)  
 15 Ron Fast (12-12)  
 16 Gloria Thulien (12-19)  
 18 Hadley Husby (5-1)  
 19 Burton Wolner (12- )  
 28 Cheryl Wolle (2-6)  
 30 Hannah Huelsenbeck (12-28)

If there are additions or corrections, please let Susan know the correction information. Thanks!

**LEFSA**

The WELCA will be making **lefse**. Please contact Janet (327-0318), Sonja (381-4206), or Evonne (828-9943) to place an order.



# AES NOVEMBER NEWS



## + Confirmation – October 29

Confirmation was on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Augustana and 11:00 am at East Sveadahl. The following students have completed confirmation classes, have written a faith statement, and are ready to make public affirmation of their baptism.

### From East:

**Erick Avila** (Jose & Dana Avila)

### From Augustana:

**Jenavieve Knaack** (Kamra & James Joosten, Russel Knaack)

**Vivian Leach** (Jesse & Christina Leach)

**Lydia Overson** (Trent & Vicki Overson)

**Ava Spitzner** (Jeremy & Heather Spitzner)

**Peyton Wolner** (Mike & Jody Wolner)

We pray: “Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up in these youth the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm their faith, guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering and bring them to eternal life. Amen”

(From *ELW Affirmation of Baptism Service*, p.236)

## + Pancake Supper – November 7

The Augustana Lutheran Churchmen’s All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Supper is Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Free will donation.

## + An Adoption Story: Elijah’s Journey – November 12

All are invited to attend the Mentor/Mentee meeting on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Pastor Mandy will be talking about Elijah’s adoption and his journey. All are welcome to attend.

## + Youth Fundraiser – November 15

The Turkey Supper, hosted by the AES Youth, is Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 from youth or contact Sandy Berg at 507-381-8903. Tickets will be on sale until November 5<sup>th</sup>.

## + Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service – November 19<sup>th</sup>

First Presbyterian is hosting this year’s Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Fellowship and desserts following the worship service. There will be an Ecumenical choir for the service. If you would like to be a part of that, please let Pastor Mandy know as soon as possible so she can get you the music. If anyone is interested in doing percussion for the service, that would be welcomed, too! The song calls for percussion.

Come and join in thanksgiving with our ecumenical partners and worship God together. It is through ecumenical partnerships that we are able to more fully understand the word of God in the world.

## + Pastor Mandy

Pastor Mandy & Paul Missling will be gone on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, for a training.

Pastor Mandy will be gone Thursday - Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Lyla will be on call.

## + Mountain Movers Prayer Gathering ~ November 29<sup>th</sup>

Mountain Movers Prayer Gathering is November 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the Augustana Chapel.

*“Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.”*

*Mark 11:23*

Do you feel like your prayer life is suffering? Are you in need of a community to pray with? Do you want to be prayed for? Come join me for 30 minutes of unscripted and open prayer in the Augustana Chapel. Prayer is extremely powerful; so powerful in fact, it can move mountains. Join me in a safe space to deeply pray in community. There is not one person who is not welcome to attend.

ALL MEANS ALL and ALL ARE WELCOME.

## + St. Lucia is Back – December 9

We are busy planning for our St Lucia Celebration again this year. It will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> with breakfast from 8:00-10:30 am in our beautifully decorated Social Hall. The Bake Shoppe will be held in the nursery during the same hours. Donated bake goods can be brought to the church on Friday afternoon. Plan to attend our celebration as we welcome members and friends to our beautiful church.

## + All Saints’ Day – November 5

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. The readings and liturgy on All Saints’ Sunday on November 5<sup>th</sup> call us to rejoice in all the saints: those who have died and now rest in Christ, those who live now, and those yet to come. We will remember the saints whose funerals have been here since the last All Saints’ Day.

From East:

**Wallace Winfield Jurgens**

*April 13, 1932 – May 11, 2023 ~ Burial at East Sveadahl Cemetery, May 17, 2023*

**LaVohn Irene (Derksen) Olson – non-member**

*December 2, 1925 – November 26, 2022 ~ Burial at East Sveadahl Cemetery, August 8, 2023*

From Augustana:

**Grace Augusta Strenge**

*October 15, 1931 – November 25, 2022 ~ Burial at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery - Bergen, December 2, 2022*

**Robert (Bob) Paul Plath**

*July 17, 1936 – December 1, 2022 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, December 30, 2022*

**Gary Willis Missling**

*April 13, 1942 – January 5, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, June 24, 2023*

**Diane Emilie Missling**

*September 27, 1948 – January 23, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, June 24, 2023*

**Jean Audrey Lepp**

*February 21, 1931 – January 31, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, April 29, 2023*

**LaVonne Maxine Wachlin**

*April 15, 1928 – April 1, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, April 15, 2023*

**Jim Lawrence Sizer**

*August 22, 1940 – April 13, 2023*

***Dorothy Mae Christianson****June 3, 1940 – April 13, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, May 20, 2023****Ileane Ruth Voth****November 22, 1929 – August 22, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, September 16, 2023****Lois Agnes Hultgren****August 16, 1933 – August 27, 2023 ~ Burial at West Sveadahl Cemetery, October 7, 2023****Doraine Mae Starks****February 21, 1928 – October 20, 2023 ~ Burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery October 20, 2023***+ 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.zppm.us/j/77502081644?pwd=NTdkeXB6TUirazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>

**+ Pastoral Visits**

Pastor Mandy and Visitation Deacon Lyla would like to visit with you! If you would like them to come to your home, the hospital, or wherever, please contact them: Pastor Mandy - 375-4792 or (C) 507-800-6672; Deacon Lyla – 507-439-6940 or (C) 507-227-9250.

**+ Keeping in Touch**

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

**AES Ministries website:** [www.aeslutheran.org](http://www.aeslutheran.org)

**Address Changes:** Augustana office – 375-4792 or Susan at East 507-317-5293

**Weekly Bulletins:** Bulletins are posted weekly on the AES Ministries website home page.

**+ Prayers and Praises**

We appreciate your care and concern for family members and friends by adding them to our Prayer Concern list in Sunday’s bulletin. This truly shows the power that we do place in prayers. If you added someone to our prayer concerns, could you also let us know when to remove their name if the need is no longer there.

**+ Weather Cancellations**

With the coming of winter weather, we ask you to please use your best judgement and common sense before venturing to church events. Your safety is of the utmost importance. Please check the sources listed below for cancellations before you leave home:

**For church closings** at both East and Augustana – listen to AM 8.60 (KNUJ), Channel 12 KEYC-TV (You can sign up for alerts from KEYC), Facebook, or check the AES website at [www.aeslutheran.org](http://www.aeslutheran.org) or [www.augustanachurch.org](http://www.augustanachurch.org).

**Confirmation classes** and **Youth activities** are automatically cancelled when school is closed or there is an early dismissal due to weather conditions.

**+ Changes**

Do you have a new address, phone, or e-mail? Please contact your church secretary (Lauren or Susan) with the information so that we can stay in touch.

## + Thank you's

A big thank you to the Augustana WELCA for the generous gift of chamber bucks for Pastor Appreciation month. It was extremely thoughtful and kind. Thank you! - Pastor Mandy

Thank you, Augustana WELCA, for the autumn surprise that was waiting for me when I stopped into the office on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Your love and kindness remind me how blessed I am to be in partnership with you as we share the love and joy we have in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Thanks again. - Lyla Klee

Thank you East Sveadahl church for the generous gift card for Pastor Appreciation Month. It was extremely kind and thoughtful! - With Gratitude, Pastor Mandy

"RFL says "Thanks" to AES Ministries." To the members of Augustana and East Sveadahl Churches, In this season of counting blessings and giving thanks, the Watonwan County Relay for Life Leadership Team would like to say "thank you" to AES Ministries for your support again this year as RFL celebrated its 25th anniversary here in Watonwan County. Your "Grounds for Hope" team/coffee sales have donated over \$1,500.00 in 2023 to the Relay. As of this writing, we have received over \$ 65,000.00 in donations for the event, and additional financial support for our new "Hope Lives Here" program. Your continued support, generosity, and caring is greatly appreciated. Together, we fight for the cure!

- RFL Team Member

East Sveadahl: Thank you for the donation from your offering. Every bit sure helps all the fur babies at the shelter. We appreciate your support! - Ann Hofstad, Watonwan Co. Humane Society

Augustana Quilt Makers, Watonwan County Public Health Thanks you for your beautiful & generous gifts of quilts. Such a wonderful gift for our families in need now that the weather is becoming cooler. - Blessings, Watonwan County Public Health

# WELCA INFORMATION and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## East WELCA -

~~ The WELCA will be making **lefse**. Please contact Janet (327-0318), Sonja (381-4206), or Evonne (828-9943) to place an order.

## Augustana WELCA -

~~ The East WELCA invites you to their annual **Christmas Party** on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to Janet Bloomquist at 375-5308 by Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Come celebrate with us!

~~ WELCA Mission Project is Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 2:00-3:00 at Brandt Ridge. All residents at Brandt Ridge and Prairie View will be asked to join us. Activity will be the dice game again. (Play till all prizes are gone) Augustana people please save the date, come and help the residents play, join in the fun and fellowship with them. We can start setting up at 1:30. This is a Thrivent Action team project, so wear your T-shirt. Any questions please feel free to contact Judy Berg 375-4759 or Nancy Kunkel 375-3926.

~~ Everyone is welcome to come **help make lefse** for our St. Lucia Christmas Shoppe. I have applied for a Thrivent Action Team project and hope to be getting a \$250 Community Impact Card. With this card I will purchase the potatoes, flour, and butter. Potatoes and butter will be available for you to pick up in the church kitchen. The flour, which is added to the potato mixture just before we roll out the lefse, will also be available in the church kitchen.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Anderson at 375-3462.

**Workshop Dates:** Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.  
 Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.  
 Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.

**LEFSE RECIPE**

3 C. Mashed Russet Potatoes	1 Tbsp. sugar
½ stick butter (1/4 c.)	1 c. flour (add right before rolling)
2 Tbsp. cream or half & half	1 tsp. salt

Cook Russet potatoes until just done; don't overcook as they tend to absorb water.  
 Drain and mash or rice them well. Measure out 3 cups and add the butter and cream.  
 Mix in the sugar and salt. The flour will be added just before we roll the lefse.

**Financial Facts for September 2023**

	September	YTD
<b>Total Giving</b>	\$ 7,793.12	\$ 102,566.24
<b>Total Expenses</b>	- \$ 15,911.20	- \$ 136,896.03
	- \$ 8,118.08	- \$ 34,329.79

The average giving needed per week to support the budget voted on at the annual meeting is **\$3,841.00 per week...** the average giving per week received through September is **\$2,849.06**. We are almost \$1000.00 per week short of Budget and Actual Expenses. This is a serious deficit. The year-end is approaching and we need to make a "Budget" for 2024. The Council and Finance Committee ask that you Pray with us to seek a solution how to continue financially supporting the work of our church.

- Respectfully Submitted, Judy Thulien - Treasurer

**COMMUNITY EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+ Turn Back – November 5**

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Turn your clocks **back one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**+ Veterans Day – November 11**

This National Holiday was first proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 as Armistice Day. By a bill in Congress in 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day. It was to be a day of reflection—a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation". Thank our veterans for the sacrifices they have made for us.

**+ Christ the King – November 26**

We are coming to the end of the Church year. Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the church year. The following Sunday will be the First Sunday of Advent which begins the church year all over again. Christ the King Sunday is a summary of the whole year. Christ is worshipped as sovereign ruler over all creation, nations, and people. Christ's rule is one of peace and justice. Christ is the One who claims our highest loyalty. Christ was enthroned upon the cross and will return as humankind's ultimate sovereign and judge. The color of the paraments you will see on the altar, pulpit, and lectern will be white. They are white because it is a festival of our Lord.



## + Christmas in Christ Chapel – December 1, 2, 3

The Christmas in Christ Chapel program at Gustavus Adolphus College will be given December 1, 2, 3, “Grace Embodied Celebrating 50 Years of Christmas in Christ Chapel” will be a sharing of the Christmas message through music, readings, prayer, and dance. For more information, call 507-933-7520 or check their website.

## + Green Lake’s 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Dinner Theater – December 7 – 10

Green Lake’s 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Dinner Theater, “The Last Resort”, will be performed December 7-10. Tickets are \$80. For reservations call 320-796-2181 or go online at GLLM.org/dinner-theater. Check the poster on the bulletin board at both churches for more information.

## + Minnesota Valley Action Council – Energy Assistance Program

If you or someone you know has difficulty paying their monthly energy bills, please request an application by calling MVAC at (507) 345-6822 or (800) 767-7139 or downloading the application from MVAC’s website at mnvac.org. Applications will be available in October and the deadline to apply is May 31, 2023. More information is posted on the bulletin boards in both churches.

### AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 5, 2023

Present: Tom Anderson, Teresa Andrews, Dana Avila, Sandy Berg, Deanna Hoffman, Stan Kunkel, Mike Menssen, Paul Missling, and Pastor Mandy

Absent: Kari Miest

A motion was made by Deanna H., seconded by Teresa A., and carried to approve the minutes.

#### **Pastor’s Report**

She had two Funerals at Augustana

Continuing Education - Two classes (Storytelling & End of Life Ministry)

Very high mileage this month - visits and fall theological conference

Bible Study begins Sunday and her new prayer group begins on October 18<sup>th</sup> – “Mountain Movers”

Confirmation Class begins October 11<sup>th</sup>.

All Hallow’s Eve Service October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at East in NE corner of cemetery

Confirmation Sunday - Services - 9:00 am Augustana, 11:00 am East

Pulpit Supply increased to \$175.00 for first service and \$50.00 for second service.

#### **Youth Report**

ROAR kick off well attended - 51 people for Bingo. About 60 for meal, took in \$729.00.

First ROAR meeting went well. Opening was attended with all ages together. There were 24 in attendance including preschoolers.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> Paul will hold a spooky stories of the Bible with youth during sermon

Plans for the next Book Club for youth are pending.

#### **Old Business - none**

#### **New Business**

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Joint service at Augustana at 10:00

No joint services in November

November 19<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving worship at First Presbyterian Church

VBS next summer to be held at First Lutheran Church

Discussion held about doing joint fund raisers for general church expenses.

CCC numbers are updated by both churches annually.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm at East

Stan Kunkel

## EAST SVEADAHL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – October 12, 2023

The East SveadahL Church Council met on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7 pm at East SveadahL. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Dana Avila, Kris Suess, Wayne Jurgens, Lori Urevig, Sonja Coleman, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Cindy Torkelson

Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Mandy opened with prayer.

The September 14<sup>th</sup> minutes were read and approved as read.

Financial Secretary, Sonja Coleman and Treasurer, Kris Suess presented their reports. A motion by Dana, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the reports as presented.

### **Pastor Mandy presented her report:**

- Pastor Mandy attended a continuing education class and the Synod Fall Theological Seminar.
- Confirmation has started.
- Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> there will be baptisms at both churches.
- Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> there will be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at the First Presbyterian Church at 6:30 p.m. A joint choir is being planned.
- SAVE-THE-DATE...Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a turkey supper fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering at Augustana.
- The SW MN Synod is offering a grant for Pastors & Congregations. The grant will pay for pulpit supply and mileage for one Sunday in order to give pastors a well-deserved holiday at no expense to the congregations. The grant opportunity will run through 2024.
- Pastor Mandy is showing a movie (Ghost Busters) at East SveadahL on Friday, October 27 at 7 p.m. All are invited.
- On October 30<sup>th</sup> there is an All Hallow's Eve Service at East SveadahL Cemetery with a bonfire and goodies. Tom gave the AES report. See full details in newsletter.

### **Old Business:**

- The calendar project has been tabled until 2024.
- The chair lift application variance was denied. It was recommended that a platform lift would better accommodate our church. Lori will look into details for the project.
- The AES baked potato fundraiser at East will be scheduled in early 2024.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next church council meeting will be November 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

## AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – October 11, 2023

Present-Lynn Watson, Kirsten Freitag, Deanna Hoffman, Sandy Berg, Lisa Carlson, Judy Thulien, Dean Swenstad, Jeff Price, Lyle Anderson, Stan Kunkel, Pastor Mandy, Mark Kulseth, Darrick Miest, Kristi Zellmann

Absent-Jill Beckius

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and opened the meeting with devotions.

The secretary's report from the September meeting was reviewed and Lynn made a motion, seconded by Sandy, to approve the minutes as printed. Approved.

Judy shared the Treasurer's report. More discussion followed later. A motion was made by Lynn, seconded by Lisa, to approve the report as presented. Approved.

Deanna presented the Giving report and the amount given per Sunday continues to decline. Offering envelopes for 2024 have been ordered.

**Pastor Mandy**-attended 2 different continuing education events, one was "Storytelling" and the other was "End of Life". Also attended the Fall Theological Conference in Sioux Falls and shared a information from the conference. Presided at 2 funerals-Ileane Voth and Lois Hultgren. Confirmation class started today

after school. ROAR is underway, using a “hands on” curriculum that seems to be well received. Pastor Mandy has scheduled a Prayer Group to meet from 7-7:30PM on 10-18-23-everyone is welcome. New members will be received sometime early in 2024. The Synod is offering a “Renewal in Ministry” grant that Pastor Mandy has applied for. If granted, she will get 1 extra Sunday off with Synod covering the cost. Confirmation Banquet is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> and Confirmation Sunday is October 29<sup>th</sup> at both churches. An Ecumenical service is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Presbyterian Church.

**AES Ministries**-Paul Missling presented information about ROAR to the AES Board. Sandy Berg and Dana Avila are working on salary compensation. All Hallows Eve service is scheduled for 7PM on October 30<sup>th</sup> at East.

**Education**-committee did not meet

**Evangelism/Social Ministry**-remaining nametags have been placed in member mailboxes. Lauren is making labels for several name tags that didn't have an assigned mailbox. They will be placed as soon as mailbox labels are completed. Extra name tags, including visitor tags, along with extra lanyards and magnets will be available on the table in the narthex to be used as needed. Pastor Mandy has requested that youth be part of the Greeter Schedule. Kirsten is working on “Greeter Guidelines” to be available for new greeters. Pastor Mandy is checking on our supply of SPARK bibles to be placed in the pews for children to use during worship. Extra Time and Talent surveys will be available at both entrances to the sanctuary for anyone that wants to help that hasn't completed a survey recently. 5 Sensory Bags have been completed and are available in the Narthex. The committee has secured 2 Thrivent Action cards to be used to purchase additional Feather flags for the front lawn.

**Worship/Music/Technology**-plans for Advent were discussed. Hymns were selected. Pastor Mandy shared from Fall Theological Conference that there was discussion regarding the fact that since the COVID pandemic, the church is now “hybrid” and the systems and technology that were put into place continue to be extremely important and allow members to continue to participate in worship on an ongoing basis. They should feel just as welcome at worship as those sitting in the pews in church.

**Finance**-\$13,000 is needed monthly to meet the expenses to operate and currently the average monthly giving has been \$7,000-\$8,000 per month. More discussion regarding this later in the meeting.

**Property/Cemetery**-Furnace has been started and the maintenance has been done. Taylor Berg has completed some concrete repairs-thank you Taylor! The outdoor carpet will not be replaced until spring as there was a miscommunication regarding the order and the colder weather may affect the glue if laid now.

**Youth**-National Youth Gathering airfare is being worked on. Confirmation-banquet Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, service Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. Movie and games night at East for grades 6-12 Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. Butterfield Halloween Trail for grades 6-12 Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Jr. High Youth gathering in Willmar Nov 17-19 for grades 6-9. Turkey dinner will be served on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Youth will be selling tickets. Watch for more details. Christmas Program/Joint service at Augustana at 10AM on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. Events have been planned for 2024-watch for more details.

**Old Business**-Mark and Darrick are working with Christianson Communications on switch for internet and phones. They offer good customer service, and the cost is considerably less than current company. Pancake Supper is scheduled for Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark and Darrick will be sending out letters and having fliers printed.

**New Business**-There was considerable discussion on the financial situation at Augustana. Giving has been steadily declining and monthly giving has not been meeting the operating costs. A motion was made by Lynn, seconded by Kristi to allow Treasurer, Judy, to use funds that were collected from insurance that weren't used for repair because the repair costs were donated. The motion also allows use of Undesignated Funds, if needed to meet future expenses. Approved. A letter will be written and sent to all members to inform them of the financial situation. Judy and Jeff will work on this. The offering amounts each week and what is needed will be printed in the bulletins every Sunday. There will be a special Congregational meeting on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> to address the financial situation with members. Notice will be given according to the constitution. Giving can be done electronically by going to [aelslutheran.org](http://aelslutheran.org) and clicking on the “Secure Contributions” tab. Pastor Mandy requested to have coverage at East for that Sunday so that she can attend the meeting. Mark will check with Deacon Lyla to see if she is available, and Kristi offered to cover the \$150 amount to be paid to Lyla for covering that service.

Kristi also shared some requests that had been brought to her from members-it was again requested that

members have an opportunity to have “Coffee with the Council” to have questions answered regarding the budget, the stained-glass window project, etc. Nothing specific was scheduled but Darrick was willing to invite members to join him and any other council members during coffee hour to have the opportunity to ask questions. Also, the question was raised as to how committees/members, etc. can find out who has signed up to help with various events/tasks at church via the Time and Talent Survey. That information is available in the church office and Kristi will request that Lauren distribute that to members in charge of the various events.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 9:20PM. Next council meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Darrick will have devotions.

Communion Servers-Oct 15 (Lynn & Kristi), Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sandy), Oct 29<sup>th</sup> (Darrick), Nov 5<sup>th</sup> (Dean & Lisa), Nov 12<sup>th</sup> (Sandy & Lyle)

- Respectfully submitted-Kristi Zellmann

## **AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES – October 23, 2023**

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

Devotions: Judy read a devotion from the Word in Season

Secretary’s Report: Approved

Treasurer’s Report: St Lucia fund has 0 balance. It should be 10% . The 10% will be taken from Undesignated for the Breakfast and Bake Shoppe for these 2 accounts.

### **Old Business:**

Brandt Ridge Event: Will be November 15, 2-3 p.m. Confirmation students will help with this event, and possibly help wrap prizes.

Bakeless Bake Sale: Was a success. \$510. raised to date, to be donated to the Stained-Glass Window fund. The amount needed to complete this project changes, it is around \$20,000 at this time.

ROAR’s Fall Festival: Was a success. Snacks are needed for ROAR.

Little Food Pantry: Rebecca this month, Altar next month. Discussion on adding more groups to this. It was decided that WELCA would donate \$150./month to provide food for the pantry, and Ray Berg would help to keep food in it. Members are still encouraged to donate food items for the pantry. Flyers will be in the Pantry from the Food Shelf, hours and location.

Distribution of WELCA money: After discussion, it was decided to donate the following: \$500. Operation Concern and Youth Gathering, and ROAR(pending Circle approval), \$250 ELCA Disaster, \$240.

Missionary, and Radio Broadcast (funds will be there when there is no sponsor), \$200. Food Shelf, Green Lake Endowment Fund.

### **New Business:**

St Lucia: December 9th

Pies for Thanksgiving: Service will be at Presbyterian, November 19th. Planning to have an ecumenical choir as well. Judy will reach out to offer help for the pie and coffee after the service.

Cards for Shut Ins: We will address Thanksgiving cards for shut ins at our next meeting.

It was suggested we have a board with all events happening at Augustana for the year ahead. Anyone that wants to donate a Thrivent card for any event can sign up to do so.

Our Daily Bread, large print will be ordered for our shut ins and anyone else that may want one.

Next Meeting: November 13th, 10:45

Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jayne Anderson

## **Thanks–doing**

The French word for *thanksgiving* is *Fete d’actions de grace* or literally, “feast of thanks actions”.

When we give thanks, as well as celebrating all that we have received,  
what can we *do* to show our gratitude to God? No just one day, but all year long?

How can our thanks–giving become thanks–doing?

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## *November 2023 Newsletter*

### **SPECIAL NOVEMBER-DECEMBER DATES**

- + All Saint's Sunday, November 5
- + Daylight Savings Time Ends, November 5
- + Election Day, November 7
- + Augustana Pancake Supper, November 7
- + Veterans Day, November 11
- + Thanksgiving Day, November 23
- + Turkey Supper, November 15
- + Thanksgiving Worship, November 19
- + Christ the King Sunday, November 26
- + Martin Luther's Birthday, November 10
- + WELCA Mission Project, November 15
- + First Sunday in Advent, December 3
- + East WELCA Christmas Party, December 6
- + Saint Lucia Celebration, December 9
- + Children's Christmas Program, December 10

Mandy France, Pastor      Lyla Klee, Visitation Deacon