

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



PASTOR'S COLUMN

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

*December 6: 2:00 pm ROAR Christmas Stocking Stuffing
6:30 pm East WELCA Christmas Party*

December 9: 8–10:30 am Saint Lucia Celebration at Augustana

*December 10: 10:00 am Joint ROAR Christmas Program at Augustana
Dinner for all follows the service.
Free will offering; Proceeds to the Youth Fund*

December 19: 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service at Sturm Funeral Home

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship Services
4:00 pm Communion Worship at East
6:00 pm Communion Worship at Augustana

December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day

December 31: 10:00 am Joint Worship Service at East



AUGUSTANA **CIRCLES**

December 5: 9:30 am Rebecca Circle, Fireside
6: 9:00 am Martha circle, Deanna's
19: 9:00 am Sewing Circle

USHERS

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

LECTORS

December 3: Kari Miest
10: Lisa Carlson
17: Jean Leopold
24: Jim Moody
31: Judy Thulien

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

Becky Schmidt, Jean Leopold,
Carol Zarn, Jill Beckius

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Karla Schwanz**
\$610 – Stained Glass Window Fund

In memory of **Lavonne Watson**
\$70 – Stained Glass Window Fund

In memory of **John Chambers**
\$25 – Stained Glass Window Fund

\$140 – Missionary Support

COMMUNION SERVERS

December 3: Mark Kulseth & Lynn Watson
10: Kirsten Freitag & Kristi Zellmann
24:

RADIO INFORMATION - KSUM 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, and the 5th Sunday in June and December in 2024.
To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.

December 17th: Available

AUGUSTANA **TRANSISTIONS**

Baptisms:

We welcomed *Haze Michael Eggstein*, son of Gage Eggstein & Kaydi Anderson, into God's Family and AES Ministries on November 5, 2023.

We welcomed *Myles Douglas Anderson Waller*, son of Corey Waller & Jadynd Anderson, into God's Family and AES Ministries on November 5, 2023.

Please continue to keep Haze & Myles and their family in your prayers as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Deaths:

Richard Lincoln Lepp passed away on November 13th, 2023.

May God's peace comfort his family and friends.

3rd Grade Bibles:

Receiving their bibles on November 12th:

Jonathan Berg, Branten Missling,
Christopher Moll, and Kristina Murilla

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sunday, December 3rd with Laurie Swenstad

GREETERS

December 3: Stan & Nancy Kunkel
10: Lisa Carlson
17: Eugene Zarn
24: Jayne Anderson
31: Joint at East Sveadahl

POINSETTIAS

Special arrangements have been made to purchase Poinsettias through Augustana at the cost of \$10 per plant. These plants will be used for the Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 pm on December 24th. An order form was sent with the December newsletter.



Please fill out the Poinsettia form and who it is in memory of or in honor of and return it to the Church Office by **Wednesday, December 13th** or call the church office at 375-4792 before that day.

EAST

TRANSITIONS:

A Celebration of Life was held for **Mavis Jean Warling** on November 4, 2023, in the East Cemetery. She died May 16, 2022.

May God's peace comfort her family and friends.

Cooper Alan Miller, son of Hannah Huelsenbeck and James Miller, was baptized November 5, 2023. He was born August 29, 2023. His sponsors are Lucas and Heather Radcliffe.

Continue to remember this family!

Receiving their bibles on November 12, 2023, were **Emery Anderson, Ezra Avila, Isabelle Garza, and Ava Huelsenbeck.**

A Celebration of Life was held for **Mary Ann (Engel) Menssen** on November 18, 2023, with burial in the East Cemetery. She was born February 26, 1937, and died on November 10, 2023.

May God's peace comfort her family and friends.

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through October	\$ 69,391.70
Received through October	70,212.27
Ahead through October	+ \$ 820.57
Received in October	\$ 5,305.98

Happy Birthday & Baptismal Birthday!

- 3 Dennis Coleman [5-16]
- Camryn Lenz [2-19]
- 9 Anthony Lenz [12-24]
- 14 Wayne Wolle [1-4]
- 16 Gerry Buse
- Brittany Lenz [1-22]
- 17 Jessica Anderson [1-26]
- 18 Derek Fast [12-19]
- Sue Ann Forsyth [1-26]
- 20 Cathy Anderson [3-8]
- Chloe Anderson [1-13]
- 21 Emily Anderson [2-14]
- 22 Ava Huelsenbeck [2-22]
- 28 Racheal Wollschlager [5-19]
- 30 Sam Christenson [4-20]
- 31 Shalea Schloss [4-15]



EAST

RADIO BROADCASTS

- December 3: First Lutheran, St. James
- 10: East
- 17: Augustana
- 24: First Lutheran, St. James
- 31: East

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Evonne Moll, Pat Buse

VISITING COMMITTEE

Deb Anderson, Charlotte Johnson

LECTORS

- December 3: Tom and Cathy Anderson family
- 10: Service at Augustana
- 17: Pete and Emily Christenson family
- 24: Danon and Trisha Anderson family
- 30: Jim Nasman

RADIO SPONSORS

December 10: Sponsor needed!

December 31: Sponsor needed!

Thank you to those who sponsored broadcasts during the year.

2024 RADIO SUNDAYS

We will sponsor the 2nd Sunday of every month in 2024 plus March and September.

If you would like to sponsor any of these broadcasts, call Susan. Thank you!

Christmas Decorating Committee

Dale and Deb Anderson, Bernie Jurgens, Lorita Nasman, Lisa Shellum, Lori Urevig

POINSETTIAS

The Altar Committee will be ordering poinsettias to decorate the church. If you would like to help defray the cost of the poinsettias with a \$20.00 or more donation, please send your donation to Evonne (29612 700th Ave., St. James).



Call Evonne (828-9943), Pat (829-3148), or Susan (317-5293) to let them know who you are giving your donation in memory of or honor of by **Wednesday, December 13th.**



AES DECEMBER NEWS

~~ PLEASE NOTE ~~

Do you have a question, concern, or praise to bring up?

You are welcome to attend any of the Church Council meetings!
At the beginning of each meeting, each Church Council is adding
"Member Concerns and Praises" to their agendas.

This is a great time to get questions answered or offer up words of encouragement.

Any anonymous feedback will not be accepted by the Councils or Pastor.

~~ EAST WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 6

The East WELCA Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 6th with supper at 6:30 pm followed by the program. All WELCA members are asked to please let Julene (317-3457) or Deb (381-4207) know the number of guests you are bringing. We look forward to seeing our friends.

~~ CHRISTMAS PARTY INVITATION - December 6

The East WELCA invites all Augustana women to their annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to Janet Bloomquist at 507-327-0318. See you at the party!

~~ AUGUSTANA WELCA MEMBERS - December 8

Calling all bakers/treat makers - We are in need of baking and treats for our Christmas Shoppe on December 9th for our St Lucia Celebration. Please bring your donations to the Nursery at Augustana on Friday, December 8th. Thank you for sharing your creations. Plan to join us on Saturday from 8 - 10:30 am to enjoy the beauty and tasty breakfast prepared for you! Wonderful celebration to usher in the Christmas season! Come and enjoy it with us!!

~~ SAINT LUCIA - December 9

Soon all the candles and luminaries will be lit welcoming everyone to Augustana's annual St. Lucia Festival. Please know that all members of Augustana are encouraged to attend this very special day. Breakfast is from 8 - 10:30 am (free will offering); the Christmas Shoppe is open 8 - 10:30 am. You will be charmed by the simplicity and warmth of a "candle-lit" breakfast. Come celebrate with us!

~~ ROAR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - December 10

The ROAR Christmas Program is Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 am. This is a joint worship service at Augustana. Children are asked to be at church at 9:00 am. A dinner will be served after the service with proceeds going to the Youth Fund.

~~ MOVIE NIGHT - December 15

All 6th – 12th graders are invited to the next Movie Night, Friday, December 15th from 6-10 pm at Augustana. Everyone is welcome!!

~~ DEADLINE CHANGE - December 16

Because of the Christmas holiday schedule, please have your December newsletter articles turned in by **Saturday, December 16th**. **Thank you!**

~~ BLUE CHRISTMAS - December 17

When the Christmas season rolls around, and the first notes of your favorite Christmas songs start to play over Thanksgiving dinner or while walking through the grocery store, it can be both a joyous, yet difficult reminder. The classic Christmas experience is one filled with families and friends, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, when we see empty chairs around the table, or empty benches during church services, it can bring a deep sadness. For those celebrating, perhaps for the first time, without a loved one, the holiday season can feel very lonely and uncertain.

A Blue Christmas service recognizes the loss and loneliness that can be felt during the holidays for those who are missing loved ones. It is a service that specifically enables individuals to experience their grief, as well as express what they are feeling, so they can find a sense of calm and hope. For these reasons, a special Blue Christmas worship service will be held at the **Sturm Funeral Home**, led by local pastors on **Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 pm**.

At the Blue Christmas worship, we will join in sharing prayers and music and hearing scripture that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn. God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

~~ GIVING

As the calendar year comes to an end, prayerfully remember your church in this season of giving!

~~ FINANCIAL BOOKS - December 27 and 29

The financial books of East close at **NOON on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th**.

The financial books of Augustana close at **NOON on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th**.

Please take care of any financial business before that time and date. Thank you!

~~ BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS - January 14

Augustana WELCA is hosting a Baby Shower for Jesus on January 14th after the worship service. For those attending, we ask if you could donate newborn clothing, diapers, etc. All donations will go to Human Services to give out to families in need.

~~ AES at SUMMER CAMP

Camping at Green Lake Bible Camp is quickly approaching! Our week is Week 8 (July 28 - August 1). Paper registration forms will be in the mail in a couple of weeks. Registration opens in December. Registration will be due early February. -- Spots have been reserved for our Youth! Keep your eyes peeled for forms and more information coming soon!

~~ CHANGES

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

~~ ANNUAL REPORTS and ANNUAL MEETINGS

Financial Reports:

All Financial Books from both congregations need to be closed. Please ready your financial reports as you have done in the past. You will be notified when the reports will be audited.

Written Reports:

Please send Augustana reports to the church secretary by **Monday, January 8, 2024**.

Please send East reports to the church secretary by **Monday, January 15, 2024**.

Reports for both congregations: Pastor's, 2023 Annual Meeting, AES Ministries, WELCAs, Worship and Music, Youth, Property, and Resolutions

For Augustana: Evangelism/Faith Chest/Grounds for Hope, Finance/Stewardship/Memorial, and Martha, Rebecca, and Sewing Circles

Annual Meetings:

Augustana Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 29, 2024, following the 9:00 am worship service.

East Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 4, 2024.

~~ THRIVENT ACTION CARD HOLDERS

To all Thrivent members, if you have Thrivent Action Cards available, we at Augustana have projects that you could help with. We will give you a monthly update and hopefully have a yearly calendar posted at church soon. Projects that could use a card for are:

1. Baby Shower for Jesus - WELCA
2. Sewing
3. Faith Chests
4. Souper Bowl Appetizers – Youth
5. Wonder Bible NFV (Pastor will use these for shut-ins).

If you want any information regarding this project, feel free to contact Judy Berg at 507-995-2414 or Pastor Mandy. Your giving will be appreciated!

~~ 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=NTdkeXB6TUlrazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>

~~ PASTORAL INFORMATION

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

~~ 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. 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

AES Ministries website: www.aeslutheran.org or www.augustanachurch.org.

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

Weekly bulletins and newsletters: Posted to the AES website-bulletins weekly, newsletters monthly

~~ WINTER CANCELLATIONS

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

CHURCH CLOSINGS:

Listen to 860 AM (KNUJ), Channel 12 KEYC-TV, check the AES web site at www.aeslutheran.org or www.augustanachurch.org or our Facebook page for any snow emergency information.

If school is cancelled or closed early, confirmation classes will also be cancelled.

~~ 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

~~ THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our WELCA Mission Event (Dice Game) at Brandt Ridge. Thanks, Pastor Mandy, for bringing the Confirmation class to help with wrapping prizes and working the tables. Fun and Fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

Blessings, Judy Berg WELCA President and WELCA Board.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

~~ CHRISTMAS IN CHRIST CHAPEL - December 1 - 3

Christmas in Christ Chapel 2023, "*Grace Embodies Celebrating 50 Years of Christmas in Christ Chapel*", will be given December 1-3. For more information, call 507-933-7001 or go to www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

~~ GREEN LAKE DINNER THEATER - December 7 - 10

Green Lake's 9th Christmas Dinner Theater, "*The Last Resort*". will be performed December 7-10th. Order tickets now - 320-796-2181 or at www.gllm.org.

~~ ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - MVAC

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 mnvaac.org. Applications are available now, and the deadline to apply is May 31, 2024. Check the church bulletin boards for more information.

We can communicate the true meaning of Christmas by modifying our traditions.

What would a child learn about Christmas

if there were fewer material gifts for "each other" under the tree
and more gifts for others ...? ~ Mark L. Yackel-Juleen

AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 2, 2023

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

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Pr. Mandy led us in prayer.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Paul and Pr. Mandy will be attending the Boundaries Workshop November 21st at the Synod Office in Redwood Falls. Rostered youth workers in the church are required to attend once every three years. Cost is \$40 per person.

The Equipping Congregations event is December 2nd at the Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. Pr. Mandy is asking that at least one person from each congregation attend. Cost is \$30 per person with a \$90 cap. She will be gone November 22-25. Deacon Lyla will be on call.

Erick Avila, as a member of the Lutheran Youth Board, will be participating in the Junior High Youth Gathering November 16-18th in Willmar.

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is Sunday, November 19th, 6:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in singing in the choir, contact Pr. Mandy for the music. A pie fellowship follows the service.

YOUTH REPORT

ROAR is going well. The confirmation students' involvement in ROAR is well received by everyone.

ROAR is in need of someone to lead music. If you could help, please contact Paul.

The ROAR Christmas Program is December 10th.

Transportation from the schools to Augustana has been finalized. The Take Me There bus will bring the children to Augustana.

The children are anxious to begin another Book Club session. It will begin soon!

Paul is planning some special events for Lent.

Volunteer help is always welcomed – even if just for an afternoon! If you have some extra time on Wednesdays, your help would be appreciated.

Discussion was held on the importance of keeping your youth of all ages involved in the church. A few ideas were shared.

OLD BUSINESS

The confirmation service went well. A thank you was given for everyone who helped with the confirmation banquet.

There will be a fundraiser in February at East to raise funds for AES Ministries.

Annual Meetings will be held January 28th at Augustana and February 4th at East. Deacon Lyla will be asked to lead services at East on January 28th so that Pr. Mandy can attend the Augustana Annual Meeting.

There will be a special congregational meeting at Augustana on December 3rd.

NEW BUSINESS

The pastor's salary package was presented by Sandy and Dana.

A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Dana to follow the synod guidelines regarding pastor compensation and set Pr. Mandy's total salary at \$72,646.85. This salary is the guideline set forth by the SW MN Synod for clergy. Motion, as presented, carried by a voice vote. Dana – yes, Sandy – yes, Kari – yes, Mike – yes, Teresa – yes, Deanna – yes

Deacon Lyla's and Paul's salaries will remain the same.

Pulpit supply will increase to \$175 per service with \$50 paid for a second service. This is the guideline for 2024 set forth by the SW MN Synod.

Services on Christmas Eve will be: 4:00 pm East Sveadahl; 6:00 pm Augustana.

Board members whose terms expire are Teresa, Tom, Sandy, and Deanna.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Sandy, and seconded by Teresa that those who have concerns and/or praises involving any aspect of our churches present those concerns/praises to any

member of the AES Council. Motion carried. The AES Council, Augustana Council, and East Council meetings are all open meetings. Beginning in 2024, these council meetings will set aside a special time in their agendas for congregational concerns. Concerns of any kind can be presented during this time.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:20 pm.

The next meeting is December 7th, 6:00 pm at Sandy Berg's.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson, Secretary

EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – November 9, 2023

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7 pm at East Sveadahl. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Dana Avila, Kris Suess, Wayne Jurgens, Cindy Torkelson, Sonja Coleman, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Mandy.

Absent: Lori Urevig

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

Pastor Mandy opened with prayer.

The October 12 minutes were approved as read.

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

Tom presented the bills. A motion by Wayne, seconded by Cindy, and passed to approve paying of bills.

A motion was made by Dana, seconded by Kris, and passed to give the November and December noisy offerings to Mumbai.

A motion by Wayne, seconded by Cindy, and passed that the donation to Maui, Hawaii be rounded off to \$100.00.

Pastor Mandy presented her report:

- The Ghost Busters movie was a great time with 24 youth attending.
- The All Hallow's Eve service had to be cancelled due to the weather.
- Confirmation at both churches was a great day.
- Sunday, November 12, all third graders will receive their Bibles and there will be a special offering for the ROAR kids to be able to buy and stuff stockings with hygiene and food products which will be available at Augustana for those in need.
- Confirmation students will be at Brandt Ridge on Wednesday, November 15 helping the Augustana WELCA with games and treats.
- Wednesday, November 15 is the Turkey Supper fundraiser for the youth.
- The Ecumenical Thanksgiving joint choir rehearsal will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14 and the joint service is Sunday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.
- Pastor Mandy will be gone from November 21 – 25. Deacon Lyla will be on call.
- Pastor Mandy & Paul Missling, Youth Coordinator, will be attending a Good Practices/ Boundaries workshop at the Synod Office on November 21.
- December 2 is Equipping Congregations Day at Willmar with different creative workshops offered. All lay people and ministry staff are welcome. Contact Pastor Mandy if you are interested in attending.
- December 10 it is a joint service at Augustana at 10 a.m. for the ROAR Christmas Program.
- December 31 is a joint service at East at 10 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Services are 4 p.m. at East and 6 p.m. at Augustana.

Tom highlighted the AES meeting. See complete report in newsletter.

All council meetings are open to the public. Anyone who has concerns or praises should bring them to the councils. The councils will have a time slot during their meetings, open to any member with issues (good or bad), to come and voice them.

(continued)

Old Business: none

New Business:

- There are new hymnals available for all ELCA churches.
- A problem with the front doors leaking was discussed. Tom will look further into the problem.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next church council meeting will be December 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -- November 8, 2023

Present: Lynn Watson, Deanna Hoffman, Sandy Berg, Lisa Carlson, Judy Thulien, Dean Swenstad, Jeff Price, Lyle Anderson, Pastor Mandy, Mark Kulseth, Darrick Miest

Absent: Stan Kunkel, Kristi Zellmann, Kirsten Freitag

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and Darrick shared devotions.

The secretary's report from the October meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as printed by Lynn and seconded by Darrick.

Judy presented the Treasurer's report. Motion to approve by Lynn, seconded by Dean. Cemetery maintenance payments discussed. Motion to approve payments to Lloyd Sandberg and Roger Hagen by Darrick and seconded by Lynn.

Giving report was shared by Deanna.

Pastor Mandy - Sunday, Nov 12th, 3rd Grade students will receive their Bibles during worship at both churches. Nov 12th at 7 pm Presentation of Elijah's adoption story. All are invited along with confirmands and mentors. Nov 15th Confirmation students will be helping Augustana WELCA at Brandt Ridge with their dice gift game. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at First Presbyterian at 6:30 pm. Ecumenical choir practice Nov 8th and 15th at 7 pm. Pastor Mandy will be out of the office Nov 22nd-25th and Deacon Lyla will be on call. Wed. Nov 29th Prayer meeting at noon and 7 pm at Augustana. Sunday, Dec 17th Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service at Funeral Home Chapel at 7 pm.

Synod news: Saturday Dec 2nd Equipping Congregations Day at Vinje Lutheran in Willmar 8:30 am to 3 pm. Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 125 or less, the cost is \$30 per person (with a cap of \$90). Childcare is provided! Workshop topics: Welcoming refugees, Church responding to a World in Need, Companion Synod Visitor Exchange Grants, Rural Mental Health, Trauma Informed Care, Congregational Hospitality, Generosity.

AES Ministries - discussion of wages and budget-how salary is set up for clergy, step increases as defined by the Synod for years of service in ministry. East Sveadahl will host a bake potato bar fundraiser. Date to be determined.

Education - The Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 10th at a joint church service at 10 am-Augustana. The students will usher, help with the reading and prayers and will be singing Christmas hymns. Other students who are not attending ROAR will be invited. A dinner will be served after the program. ROAR will take Christmas break Dec 27th and Jan 3rd. Planning a Christmas movie night for students in Grades 6-12 on Dec 15th. Sign up by Dec 10th.

Evangelism/Social Ministry - did not meet

Worship/Music/Technology - Discussion of Christmas Eve services. AES made the decision to have Christmas Eve evening services.

Finance - requested a building insurance quote from Ness Agency. Started working on the 2024 budget. Prepared universal letter requesting special congregational meeting on Dec 3rd. Motion to approve by Lynn, seconded by Sandy.

Property/Cemetery - headstones and flower pots are in need of attention at the cemetery

Youth - Wed Nov 15th turkey supper fundraiser at Augustana from 5:30 to 7 pm. Youth to help with the dinner after the Christmas program on Dec 10th.

(continued)

Old Business - Mark and Darrick have contacted Christianson Communications regarding phones.

Nominating Committee-Paul Missling and Kyla Schlomann-Terms expire for Mark, Lisa, Kristi, and Jill.

New Business - Annual Meeting January 28, 2024 (if meeting is canceled due to weather, meeting would be the following Sunday, Feb 4th)

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 9:05 pm. Next meeting will be Dec 13th at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted - Jill Beckius

WELCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - November 2023

Noisy Sunday – Psalm 98

“With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. (v.6).

Historians tell us the ancient Israelites worshiped loudly! Listeners could hear joyful songs, blaring horns, shouts, and clapping. The Sabbath was a noisy day!

In our time most churchgoers are happy to make or receive music on Sunday mornings – but noise? As a kid I learned not to make noise in church. Don't talk. Don't kick the pew in front of you or play with the pencils in the pew rack. And never, never stand up on the pew! Adults sang lots of hymns, but my mom never held the hymnal at my level. And no one played a horn except Mr. Buie in the choir, who made such a racket on East Sunday morning that I put my hands over my ears!

Kids, though they can make lots of noise, also love to make music. If you've enjoyed a preschool recital or a Christmas play, you know that. But what if we invited kids to use their voices more often during worship, even standing on a pew? How about a noisy Sunday now and then?

Open my heart, loving God, to the voices of children. Amen.”

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

Devotion: Judy read a devotion on “The Seven Rules of Life”

Secretary's Report: Approved

Treasurer's Report: St Lucia will be one line item. Kitchen items needed will be ordered. Report is approved.

Old Business:

Brandt Ridge Event - November 15, 1:30. Confirmation students to help.

Little Food Pantry - Ray Berg will purchase items, and fill when he sees that it is needed.

Pies for Thanksgiving - Presbyterian will take care of pies this year.

Cards and bags for shut ins - Thanksgiving cards will be signed and ready to mail today. Rebecca Circle will do Christmas bags for local shut ins. Cards will be mailed to those out of town.

New Business:

Officers for Next Year - Will remain the same.

Distribution of Money from St Lucia: We will be looking for ideas on distribution of these funds.

Gifts for Pastor, Lyla, Lauren, Paul, and Karen - \$40. fruit baskets. Jeanne will order and pick up.

Baby Shower for Jesus - January 14th, coffee hour. We will serve egg bake, pastry, fruit, orange juice and coffee.

Judy is working on a calendar of events for Augustana in 2024. Anyone wishing to use a Thrivent card for an event will be able to do so by signing up.

Thank You's: Were received.

Next meeting: January 8, 2024, 10:45

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Jayne Anderson



Star of Love

To Bethlehem now let us go to find the
brightest star we know.
We'll follow the star from Adam and Eve to
prophets whose message we believe.
We'll follow the star to a baby boy where
angels sing with heavenly joy.
With shepherds and wise men
who come from afar
we worship this shining Light
– our Star!
This Brightest Star sent from heaven above is
Jesus, our Savior –
the Star of Love.

If You Look for Me at Christmas...

Author Unknown

If you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness, as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

With this Candle

Author Unknown

Where there is light, there is hope.
Where there is friendship, peace and truth.
Christmas is a time for celebrating the special people in our lives.
When I cannot find my way, I light a flame.
And at Christmas, I think of you.



AES Ministries
P.O. Box 151
St. James, MN 56081
Telephone: 507-375-4792

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DECEMBER 2023



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AES Ministries
Augustana - East Sveadahl
Lutheran Churches

Mandy France, Pastor
Lyla Klee, Deacon

HAPPY NEW YEAR



The AES Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our Augustana and East Sveadahl family for your continued support and your partnership in telling the good news of Jesus Christ.

We wish you and yours a peace filled, blessed Christmas season and a very Happy New Year.

*"Herein is love.
Not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent His Son"*
1 John 4:10

