

*“Congregations joined in faith and fellowship to spread God’s Love”.*

---

## February – People of the Promise

We slid into a special month just now. A sandwich month, squeezed between the winds of winter and the scent of spring. A hope-filled month, shorter than most, there are just four weeks that will fly by quickly. Some years February delivers a bonus, an extra 24 hours to plan and enjoy. Not this year! 2021 is an odd numbered year. But February does include a holiday. It’s the birthday month for two historical Presidents. Plus - speaking of holidays, February features that popular un-official one we’ve named Valentine’s Day. Smack in the middle of the month, it’s the day for proclaiming “**I love you**” with passion and intensity.

Love and passion are good themes for February. This month is frequently also the launching pad for Lent. Love and Lent, both are four letter words. Both start with the letter “L”. Both are intertwined with passion and caring. Lent is a 40-day season for pondering God’s gift of love in the ministry of Jesus. Love proclaimed with a human face and a teacher’s patience. This year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

---

Our Lenten Theme for 2021 will be:

### **People of the Promise... Living into the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

This is a year with incredible tumult and challenge. Deacon Lyla and I want to address some of those realities. We are going to tackle our troubling realities with this series based in the Old Testament. There will be much we can learn from the ordinary people of the Bible. We will discover God’s love in the midst of their difficulties. We will see how their toil and turmoil are offset with promise and hope. Come and join us on Facebook for the Wednesday nights of Lent.

---

## Interim Update

We are making incredible progress! We started this interim knowing it would take at least a year. A rule of thumb for interim planning anticipates ONE month for each year a previous pastor has been at a church plus SIX months for basic interim work. A “rule of thumb” is always based on smooth circumstances. Covid19 has been anything BUT regular and routine. And yet here we are, making incredible headway!

The Transition MAP Team has finished their important information gathering tasks. They have used tools like a Congregational Questionnaire, Community Interviews, and Demographic Research. They are now beginning to compile the information and start their work on the **Ministry Site Profile (MSP)**. The MSP is our recruiting document for introducing AES Ministries to prospective pastors. It is much like a research paper, often 14 or more pages long. It’s got to be done well. Our goal is to move quickly and have a draft ready before the end of February. The MSP draft will be the coordinating point with the Call Committee and include asking the synod to review it. As the MAP team finishes its work, a final document will be presented to the Church Councils. There are exciting days ahead.

*Pastor Gene*

## January Pastor's Report

### Appreciations & Reviews !

- Thank you: Christmas Eve w/Snowstorm – Worship Team
- Thank You: Advent Extras – middle of dark lockdown month
- Thank You: TLC Christmas Programming
- Thank You: Christmas Decorations – Background & Ambience
- Thank You: Christmas Carols & Singing
- Thank You: Seeking ways to build community via Facebook
- Thank You: Using Gifting Tangibles to connect:  
Communion Kits/Candles
- Thank You: January 5<sup>th</sup> - Review-Renewing-Refresh Sunday



### Discussion Topic

- **Funerals & Deaths**
  - Marilyn Hager
  - Sharon Malott
  - Gertrude Coleman
  - Colleen Nessler (COVID)
- **Mission Assessment Process (MAP)**
  - Starting work on Ministry Site Profile (MSP)
  - Gratitude for the MAP team...Moving Forward – Engaged & Focused
    - Momentum: Collected Insights
      - + Congregation Questionnaire
      - + Community Interviews
      - + Demographic Data Research
    - Appreciate many thoughtful, pondering replies
    - MAP team learning – recognize AES grown/mature... 10 years AES has changed
      - + Cooperative – developed – become more than handshake
      - + Mission Statement – good example: 3<sup>rd</sup> person definition of hopes for becoming... needs updating... along with agreements/constitutions/docs
      - + Finding new Pastor has similarity to a marriage... two partners bring their best stuff
  - **MSP** – asks for sense of mission/ministry/vision for future
    - + Recruit tool ... self-identify – purpose – God's vision
  - **Call Process:** PUT BEST FACE forward... not me/my/mine – listen to God
  - **Timetable** – finish process documents/draft MAP – all of January/beginning of February
    - Hope: start meeting w/Call Committee mid-February
- **Planning Events:**
  - Epiphany Season began January 6<sup>th</sup>
  - January 17<sup>th</sup> – Ugly Sweatshirt Sunday & Re-Opening Worship
    - Note: Protocols in place.**
  - February 7<sup>th</sup> – Souper Bowl Sunday
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> – New Member Sunday - ???
  - February 17<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday
  - Lyla's Wednesdays continue – “In God's Hands” Devotional
  - Baptisms – re-imagining and restating
- **January Week Off ... January 18-24**

## **AUGUSTANA**

### **FEBRUARY WORSHIP**

**Worship Services in the sanctuaries  
with protocols**

**9:00 am Augustana**

**10:45 am East Sveadahl**

**The Facebook service will continue.**

**Facebook Schedule as follows:**

**Augustana: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

**East Sveadahl: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – TBD**

**Until further notice,  
the Worship Crews will be leading  
the services.**

**Thank you again, Worship Crew.**

### **ELECTRONIC GIVING-AUGUSTANA**

#### **4 WAYS**

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

### **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.

### **MISSIONARY SPONSORS**

Please call the church office for dates available in February to sponsor our Missionary

## **AUGUSTANA**

### **CIRCLES**

Martha Circle and Sewing Circle  
Members will be contacted when meetings  
can be scheduled.

Rebecca Circle is meeting via Zoom  
on their regular monthly schedule:  
First Tuesday morning of the month at 9:30 am.

**WELCA Members: The BOLD Women's  
offering envelopes are included in this  
newsletter.**

### **RADIO BROADCASTS**

Sponsor a ½ hour broadcast for \$40.00.  
East Sveadahl will sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday;  
Augustana will sponsor the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of each month.

**Please call the church office – 375-4792, if  
you would like to sponsor a broadcast.**

### **MEMORIALS**

In memory of Margaret Warling  
\$300.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund

In memory of Gertrude Coleman  
\$130.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund  
\$25.00 – Green Lake Ministries

In memory of Bernice Olson  
\$20.00 – TLC  
\$100.00 Stained-Glass Window Fund

In memory of Colleen Nessler  
\$25.00 Green Lake Ministries  
\$55.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund

In memory of Edna Freitag  
\$25.00 – Green Lake Ministries  
\$10.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund

In memory of Marilyn Hager  
\$20.00 – Stained-Glass Window Fund

**EAST**

**TRANSITIONS:**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Francey, Chloe, Orval,  
Vickie, Denise, Tom, Charles, Don,  
Mary Ann, Sonny, Tom

**ADDRESS CHANGES:**

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:**

Needed thru December	\$64,872.00
Received thru December	61,293.95
Received in December	4,255.65
2020 contributions deposited in 2021	6,412.02
Ahead or Behind 12-31-20	+ \$ 2,833.97

**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Tammy and Julene

**VISITING COMMITTEE**

Cindy and Lorita

**Happy Birthday - Happy Baptism**

- 4 Elroy Menssen [3-1]
- 10 Mackenzie Blickem [3-15]  
Merlin Reinke [2-21]
- 12 Danon Anderson [3-13]
- 13 Cayden Huelsenbeck [7-21]
- 16 Brittany Lenz [1-29]  
Shaun Shellum [6-1]
- 19 Anna Menssen [9-25]
- 20 Teresa Andrews [3-9]
- 22 Melissa Lindeman [12-16]
- 23 Debbie Anderson [4-19]
- 26 Shenya Johnson [4-15]  
Mary Ann Menssen [4-14]
- 28 Elizabeth Coleman [4-8]
- 29 Tricia Anderson [3-1]  
Additions or corrections? Please contact Susan.

**EAST**

**FEBRUARY WORSHIP**

**In the sanctuaries following protocols**

**9:00 am Augustana**

**10:45 am East Sveadahl**

**Facebook continues**

**alternating between the two churches.**

**Augustana: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays**

**East Sveadahl: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

**The Worship Crew**

**will continue to lead the services.**

**Thank you!**

**RADIO BROADCASTS**

**on KSUM 1370 AM at 11:30 am**

February 7: First Lutheran

14: AES Ministries – East Sveadahl

21: First Lutheran

28: AES Ministries – Augustana

**LECTORS**

February 7: Erma Griffith

14: Mike Menssen

21: Wes Beck

28: Evonne Moll

**RADIO SPONSORS**

East is sponsoring the broadcast on the second  
Sunday of each month.

The cost of the half-hour broadcast is \$40.00.

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, call  
Susan at 507-317-5293.

Augustana sponsors the fourth and fifth Sunday  
of each month.

Love each other...

and take delight in honoring each other.

The Book of Romans



## AES FEBRUARY NEWS



### HOW DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR NEWSLETTER?

The AES newsletter is available to you three ways:

1. Sent through the postal mail
2. Posted on the Website
3. Sent directly to you via an email (similar to the OFFICE UPDATES)

How do you want to get your newsletter? Here are your options and what you need to do:

1. If you want to continue getting your newsletter in the mail just like you get it now  
-- **DON'T DO ANYTHING!** Your name will remain on the postal mailing list.
2. If you only want to use the Website for your newsletter  
-- tell us to take your name off the postal mailing list
3. If you want to only get the newsletter via an email  
-- send us your email address and tell us to remove your name from the postal mailing list.

Contact information: Augustana Church Office: 375-4792 or [lutheran@embarqmail.com](mailto:lutheran@embarqmail.com)  
Susan: 507-317-5293 or [seanderson0103@gmail.com](mailto:seanderson0103@gmail.com)

Thanks for letting us know how you want to receive your newsletter!

The events of the past year have shown us that we sometimes need to change the way things have been done and try alternatives. This change will save resources – trees, money, and time!

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

**Souper Bowl Sunday** is a play on words. It uses the “day-month-year” date of the Super Bowl to remember hunger issues and hungry people. It is a way to be compassionate on an exciting national day. Souper Bowl Sunday is collecting SOUP for the Foodshelf.

We are inviting members of the congregation to drop off a can or two of soup at church during the weekend of February 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be a tub by the door for collecting soup. At **Augustana**, the tub will be under the canopy at the parking lot door off Weston Ave. At **East Sveadahl**, the tub will be by the side door at the church next to the parking lot. We hope you will **Have fun with this!**

### RADIO IN 2021

AES Ministries began 2021 with a new radio station to broadcast our worship services. We are now broadcasting our services on KSUM 1370 AM radio in Fairmont, MN. This new station now gives us the opportunity for Augustana and East Sveadahl to reach out to our congregation members, our community, and a greater area in southern Minnesota/Northern Iowa. We are excited to share the message of AES to those who have not heard us before!

AES will broadcast the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays each month. The service is recorded and played back at 11:30 AM. The cost to sponsor a broadcast is \$40.00/per service. If you would like to sponsor a worship service, please contact the church office or Susan at East. Thanks for your support as we share the message of AES Ministries!

## *CABLE TV*

We are excited to announce that the Augustana Worship Services are back on the Mediacom Public Access television station in St. James. As part of our technology and equipment improvement project at Augustana, we were able to bring this back to our congregations and community.

The services are recorded each Sunday and will be played back on Tuesday at 2:15 PM.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the services!

## *WINTER CANCELLATIONS*

Winter is here! Please use your best judgement and common sense before venturing to church. Your safety is very important to us! In questionable weather, please check the sources below before you leave home.

### **CHURCH CLOSINGS:**

Listen to 860 AM (KNUJ), Channel 12 KEYC-TV, or visit our Facebook page for any snow emergency information. If school is closed early or cancelled, confirmation classes will also be cancelled.

## *LENT -- Living into the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

Check out the insert in the newsletter! It lists the topics covered on the Wednesdays of Lent.

## *MARCHING ON*

As agreed in the AES Partnership, worship times will once again switch beginning Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**9:00 am Worship at East 10:45 am Worship at Augustana**

## *VISITS -- KEEPING IN TOUCH*

Pastor Gene and Deacon Lyla are limited at this time in how they can visit with you due to COVID-19. If you would like a phone visit, please contact them: Pr. Gene at 375-4792 (office) or 507-995-9838 (cell) or Deacon Lyla at 507-439-6940 (home) or 507-227-9250 (cell).

## *PRAYER MEETING*

Weekly Prayer Meetings will continue be held on Monday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom. In these incredibly challenging times, Jo Howe and Becky Cobb invite you to partner with them and be a part of this prayer ministry. In the mid-week UPDATE you will receive a Zoom invitation. Click on the link. There is no password.

We will meet on a weekly basis and lift up those on our prayer list printed in the Sunday bulletin, as well as other matters brought to us through you or what comes in the office UPDATE email mid-week.

The prayer service is 15-20 minutes long and has been adapted from a healing service from the Iona Abbey Worship book. Iona Abbey is an ecumenical community in Scotland with a rich, long history of devotions and prayer.

The prayer meeting will begin with a short responsive reading, followed by the sharing of a Psalm, then our prayers of intercession and the blessing. This is a time for intentional, purposeful prayer. The prayers are confidential and only those who have given permission will be named.

We invite you to please take a few minutes each week as we corporately pray together in this ministry. We will be ever present in the moment allowing our prayers to "rise up like incense before you",

If you have any questions, please email Becky at [mcornrus1@msn.com](mailto:mcornrus1@msn.com).

"When you recognize the festive and the still moments as moments of prayer, then you gradually realize that to pray is to live". Henri Nouwen

## *THANK YOU*

Dear Friends, My heart is full of gratitude and thanks for the love you shower on me. Seeing you and hearing from you are always high moments in my life. And this past Christmas I received so many gifts and cards from you. Special thanks for the poinsettia plant, the monetary gift, the basket of delicious fruit and other goodies, the "delicious cookie" tray, all gifts filled with love, I know. What a privilege it is to serve with you as together we proclaim the good news - we are loved by an "awesome" God! Blessings to all! Happy 2021!

Lyla Klee, Deacon

We so appreciate the thoughtfulness. Thank you to East for the Christmas poinsettia, and thank you to Augustana for the Christmas cookies and treats.

Love, Sonny and Marge Reinke

To Augustana WELCA – Thank you for the coffee, cookies prize when my name was drawn for the “Bakeless Bake Sale”. Thank you also for the stamps and magnet. Love my Augustana family.

Leora Ask

Dear Friends of WELCA – Thank you for the card, note and stamps given to me at Christmas time. They were much appreciated, and very thoughtful of you.

Dorothy Christianson

Dear WELCA Friends – Thank you for the very thoughtful gift of stamps and magnet. God bless you all.

Lois Hultgren

Thank you to East Sveadahl for the beautiful poinsettia and the WELCA women who delivered it. It was a wonderful Christmas surprise.

Wally and Phyllis Jurgens

I would like to thank the WELCA for the gift certificate I received for Christmas. It was greatly appreciated.

Judy Berg

WELCA members - A sincere thank you for remembering me at Christmas. The stamps arrived at just the right time! My refrigerator is covered in magnets, so yours will be added to my collection. God be with all of you.

Mavis Warling

I would like to personally say thank you so very much to our secretarial staff, Sue and Susan, for the huge work they have had to do during this transition and challenging times with the pandemic! Their communication for the Education team was and is excellent! They know how important it is to work hard to keep our AES together! Thank you so much for the extra time you put in for our ministry! It is much appreciated!!

With Much love, Cindy Torkelson

The family of Gertrude Coleman sends their heartfelt thanks to all of you who cared for her with prayers, visits, flowers and cookies while she was a resident at Pleasant View. A special thank you to the Martha Circle for their missionary sponsorship in her memory on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Marlene, Loren, John and Shirley & families

## *AUGUSTANA TECHNOLOGY UPDATE*

The Worship/Technology Project at Augustana has been making good progress in the last couple of months. I would like to update you on where we are at.

First of all - thank you for your support on this project!

**Phase 1** was completed in early December of 2020. This included upgrading and improving the quality of our wireless internet capabilities for better on-line streaming of our worship and weekly devotions. We purchased our first new camera, laptop computer to greatly enhance the picture and sound quality of our online Facebook worship service. Many of you have commented on the improvements to our services.

**Phase 2** began in January with the addition of our radio broadcast moved to a new station with much improved reception (KSUM/1370 AM). We have committed to broadcasting services on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

(continued)

each month. We feel that this is an important part of our ministry for those who listen to worship on the radio, but to also invite others to hear about the ministry of AES! We also have the ability again to record our Sunday worship services on the local public access cable TV in St. James. This is also an important part of our ministry for those who do not have access to internet/streaming, but also to those of our members who are shut-ins and cannot attend worship in person. This Phase will also include the purchase of additional camera equipment to continue to enhance and improve the quality of our online worship as well as those who attend in person.

As we continue to move forward with this project, your continued financial support is needed. This will allow us to continue to reach out our ministry to the community and the world.

In order to finish Phase 2 of this project, I am asking for your pledge of support. If 50 members will pledge \$100, we can financially finish this Phase 2 of the project. You can note your donation as " Technology Fund".

Thank you for your support!

Augustana Worship/Music and Evangelism/Social Ministry Committees

### ***AUGUSTANA STAINED-GLASS MEMORIAL UPDATE***

A few years ago, we started a Memorial Fund to help preserve/restore the beautiful stained-glass windows in our Augustana sanctuary. It was determined that work was needed to maintain their beauty.

At that time, it was estimated the cost to preserve/restore the windows was approximately \$42,000.00. Currently, we are over 85% completed for funding this project! We thank you for your support of this project as we preserve our sanctuary. Please consider your gift to reach our goal! Thank you!

### ***AUGUSTANA FINANCIAL FACTS***

#### **December 2020 Summary**

Here is the Financial Summary for this past December, 2020

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Total Giving -	\$ 21,240.91	\$ 149,381.42
Total Expenses – Paid from <b>General Fund</b>	- \$ 13,047.10	\$ 144,637.15
<b>PLUS</b>	<b>+ \$ 8,193.01</b>	<b>+ \$ 4,744.27</b>

As you can see, we ended the month of December 2020 VERY strong! Thank You, Thank You to all who helped make this happen. The end of year comparison of our “Budget” to “Actual Expenses” also shows a surplus of \$6,272.75. This looks very positive, but I caution you that if had we had a normal year, the expenses would have exceeded budget. This does not mean the check book would have been short, only that we would have spent more than the estimated budgeted amount.

The Finance Committee of the council has delayed constructing a new budget for 2021 at this time. The hope is that we will soon be able to resume a more normal worship routine and reinstate many of our programs that are currently on hold. When that happens and when we are able to hold an Annual Meeting, we will most definitely have a Proposed Budget for 2021. We also hope to be closer to welcoming a permanent pastor and be able to accurately reflect the expenses we will incur at that time.

I would like to thank the leadership of the Finance Committee and Dominique Berg who advocated for monthly finance meetings. The purpose of these meetings has been to review the financial records, discuss prospective unbudgeted expenses, and make recommendations to the Council. This has been a much more efficient way to conduct the financial business of our congregation.

2021 may not see a complete return to what we know as “Normal.” However, it is my prayer that we are able to continue to move forward despite all the unusual constraints of this time. Your continued financial, and most importantly, spiritual support of our Church Family are what will make that happen. Happy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Thulien, Treasurer



# *COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

## *GLLM ANNUAL MEETING*

The Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting is February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Register for the Zoom meeting at [www.gllm.org/annual-meeting-registration](http://www.gllm.org/annual-meeting-registration). The annual report can be found at [www.gllm.org/promotional-materials](http://www.gllm.org/promotional-materials).

## *VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES*

The Foodshelf is looking for help. Interested? Contact Pr. Matt Seegert at 507-375-3472 or Katherine Petty at 952-540-7070 or [kpetty1984@gmail.com](mailto:kpetty1984@gmail.com). Thank you!

## *FOOD SHELF NEWS*

Our exciting news: We bought a building! On December 28<sup>th</sup>, we closed on the old bowling alley (Memory Lanes) in St James.

In order to turn this into a space that works for us, we are having an online liquidation auction. NPS Industrial Surplus out of Nicollet is helping us out. They have posted this auction on KBid. Below is the link to go directly to the auction. I am asking that you please help us out by sharing this information with as many people as possible. <https://www.k-bid.com/auction/35972>

On another note, if you, or someone you know potentially has personal items in the lockers from being on a bowling league, please let me know as I can let you in to get that stuff out of there.

If you have any questions, let me know -- otherwise - **SHARE SHARE SHARE!!**

Katherine Petty, Director – 952-540-7070 - [kpetty1984@gmail.com](mailto:kpetty1984@gmail.com).

## **AES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 6, 2021**

The AES Joint Council met on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM. Those present were Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Judy Berg, Dominique Berg, Leora Ask, Mike Menssen, Teresa Andrews, Greg Thulien, Susan Anderson, and Pr. Gene. Tom Anderson was absent.

Wayne Jurgens opened the meeting.

Pr. Gene offered a prayer.

A motion (Janet) was made, seconded (Greg), and carried to approve the December 2, 2020 minutes as printed in the newsletter. Copies of the minutes were sent to the council members.

**PASTOR GENE'S REPORT:** Pr. Gene presented his report which is included in this newsletter.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The AES Agreement calls for the Call Committee to be composed of “five (5) adult members, one (1) alternate, and one (1) youth from each congregation. These persons shall be nominated by each individual council”. The Call Committee is to be composed of 12 people plus two alternates. When the Call Committee is in place, Pr. Gene will contact each member informing them of the proposed time frame for selecting a new pastor and thanking them for being part of this process.

After discussion, a motion was made (Mike), seconded (Janet) to start in sanctuary worship services on

(continued)

January 17, 2021, following the protocols that are in place. The worship times will be 9:00 am at Augustana and 10:45 am at East Sveadah. The motion carried by the vote of 7 yes, 1 no.

AES Ministries will now broadcast our morning worship service on KSUM radio (1370 AM) from Fairmont. We will have the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The broadcast time is 11:30 am–12:00 pm; the cost is \$40.00. First Lutheran Church of St. James has the first and third Sundays. The sponsor for the first broadcast on January 10<sup>th</sup> is from East Sveadah. Each church will sponsor one Sunday a month.

The new members of the AES Joint Council from Augustana will be in place for the February meeting.

The Church Councils will discuss how to deal with funerals, baptisms, new member receptions, etc. with the reopening of church sanctuaries.

A motion (Leora) was made, seconded (Teresa), and carried to close the meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson

### **EAST SVEADAH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2021**

Due to weather the East Sveadah Church Council meeting was rescheduled to Monday, January 18, 2021 at 7 p.m. at church following all the COVID protocols. Those present were Tom Anderson, James Nasman, Janet Bloomquist, Evonne Moll, Wayne Jurgens, Lori Urevig, Erma Griffith, Susan Anderson, and Sonja Coleman.

In the absence of Pastor Gene, Tom opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

The December 2020 secretary's report was read and accepted.

Sonja Coleman, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer, Evonne Moll, presented their reports. A motion by Janet, seconded by Wayne, and passed to accept the reports as given.

The outstanding bills were presented by Tom. A motion by Erma, seconded by James, and passed to approve paying of bill.

A thank you was read from Pastor Gene for the Christmas gift and poinsettia.

In the absence of Pastor Gene, his written report was presented by Wayne and can be read in this newsletter.

Wayne presented the AES report. The complete report can be read in the newsletter. Wayne also reported that at the Presidents' meeting a discussion took place on the possibility of having a new member Sunday in the near future and also having a baptism within the COVID protocols.

The Call Committee for East Sveadah has been appointed. They include: Tom Anderson, Lisa Shellum, Cindy Torkelson, Deb Anderson, and Wes Beck along with Erick Avila as the youth representative and Jim Nasman, alternate.

Susan presented a newsletter update and asked for clarification of the radio Sunday schedule. It is as follows:

First Lutheran in St. James will broadcast on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

East Sveadah will broadcast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

Augustana will broadcast on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Lori presented some possible internet updates for Facebook services. A motion by Wayne, seconded by Erma, and passed to purchase equipment to help with the sound for Facebook services. It was also decided to set up an email address for the church.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A discussion took place on the Budget Proposal and Recommendations for 2021. A motion by Erma, seconded by Evonne, and passed to approve the finalized budget and recommendations to be presented to the congregation.

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

The next church council meeting will be February 11, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

## AUGUSTANA CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 13, 2021

This meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing.

**Present:** Pastor Gene Alms, Dean Swenstad, Greg Thulien, Judy Thulien, Lisa Carlson, Dominique Berg, Paul Missling, Andy Freitag, Terry Engel, John Coleman, Kari Miest, Deanna Hoffman, and Lyle Anderson.

**Absent:** Kyla Schlomann.

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. and opened with devotions from Greg.

### **Pastor's Report:**

We had some nice things happening with Advent extras during our dark lockdown month like the TLC Christmas program, Christmas decorations and carols, and communion kits/candles.

There were four deaths last month.

The MAP team is almost done with their process. The Ministry Site Profile will be a good recruiting tool of the congregation which gives a sense of purpose for the calling of a new pastor.

We will be meeting in the sanctuary again following protocols.

February 7<sup>th</sup> is Souper Bowl Sunday. Drop off soup or other canned goods by the back door in the alley for the Foodshelf.

Lyla will continue her devotionals on Wednesdays.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thulien to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Radio broadcasts have begun. The second Sunday of the month will be from East Sveadahl, the fourth Sunday will be from Augustana and the 5<sup>th</sup> will alternate between the two. It will be at 11:30 a.m. for half an hour. The cost per Sunday is \$40. People can start signing up for sponsoring this great out-reach opportunity by calling or emailing the church office.

We need two council members to sit on the AES Council. Terry Engel will take the 1-year term and Greg will stay on for another 2-year term. Becky Cobb will serve as the Member-at-large for a 2-year term. Motion was made by Swenstad, seconded by Coleman to accept said candidates. Motion carried.

The Call Committee set last month included Alison Kulseth, Darrick Miest, Lisa Carlson, Becky Cobb, and Maya Kulseth. We found out we needed one more adult who should be from the MAP transition team and one alternate. Motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Engel to add Taylor Berg as the Call Committee member and the alternate to be Greg Thulien. Motion carried.

The AES agreement needs to be reviewed and revised.

Deanna Hoffman presented the Giving Report. A big thank you to Darrick Miest who helped us get the offering envelopes mailed!

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Judy Thulien presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Engel, seconded by Coleman to approve. Motion carried.

### **Finance, Memorials, and Stewardship Committee:**

Judy Thulien has written up a financial summary to keep everyone informed about our financial situation. It will be mailed out to the congregation.

There are five seniors this year from Augustana. The application for the Richard Larson Memorial Scholarship were sent to them.

### **AES Report:**

They had discussed the Call Committee.

Now that both churches are having in-house services, we need to decide if we should have Facebook Live broadcasts from both churches each week. More discussion will be had on this subject.

### **Education Committee:**

They are trying to get the confirmation mentor program going again. Confirmation Zoom meetings rarely get all the kids on. There needs to be more accountability for confirmation requirements. It is hard with the pandemic.

Our week for Green Lake Bible Camp is July 25-August 1<sup>st</sup>.

(continued)

**Evangelism & Social Ministry/Worship & Music Committees:**

We are moving into Phase 2 of the technology capabilities. We will be recording the service and putting it on the Public Access channel on Mediacom like we used to. We are also getting more cameras. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Freitag to pay \$5,000 to our team of computer experts who are getting our equipment and setting everything up for us. Motion carried.

**Property and Cemetery:**

Some tiles blew off the roof. Andy Freitag will go up there and see if he can fix it. We have a \$2,500 deductible on our insurance.

**Youth Committee:**

Nothing to report.

**Unfinished Business:**

Three of the seniors from last year's graduating class are still attending college and qualified to receive the Richard Larson Memorial Scholarship. They each received \$8,529.73.

We are starting to plan for a Blue Grass Fundraiser concert to help send kids to camp.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27p.m. was made by Swenstad, seconded by Coleman. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be in person on February 10, 2021 with devotions by Lyle.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Lisa Carlson, Council Secretary

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – January 12, 2021**

We had another Zoom meeting so we were safe on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Glad to say Zooming is working better for all of us.

**Old Business:**

We discussed our continuation of our Faith Family Formation using our Dig-In Curriculum. The four sheets give ideas for families to have faith activities with their children. We enclosed happy faced stickers to spread happiness the best we can.

**Vacation Bible School:**

We are still planning to have it the first week after school is out.

We also discussed mentors. We do not have anyone continuing that program for our Confirmation students. In the past it has been by the pastor. We want to recommend that the mentors we do have reach out to our students.

Confirmation December Bibles will be given to the 9th graders this month.

**Adult Education:**

We are really excited about a new program started by Becky Cobb and Jo Howe. They began a prayer ministry January 11. Through Zoom at 10 am they have a short prayer service from the Iona Abbey Worship book. It's very healing during these challenging times.

**New Business:**

We discussed different dates for Green Lake Bible Camp. There is a Zoom meeting with GLBC which I will attend for more information.

**TLC Facebook:**

We are asking for more people to send pictures, drawings, and other family things to reach out to our TLC youth. Please send to Dana Avila, Tricia Anderson, Erica Garza, or Cindy Torkelson.

February Faith Formation will send out the activity sheets, and teachers will send a card individually to their students for Valentine's Day.

Next meeting will be February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm by Zoom.

Sincerely, Cindy Torkelson, Education Chairperson

AES MINISTRIES  
P.O. BOX 151  
ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA 56081  
TELEPHONE: 507-375-4792

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Saint James, MN  
Permit No. 128

Address Service Requested



## *AES Ministries February 2021 Newsletter*



### **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 17: 12:00 pm Drive-by Communion, Augustana  
6:30 pm Communion Worship, East - Facebook

#### **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

Every Wednesday: 12:00 pm Worship, Augustana  
February 24: 6:30 pm Worship, Augustana - Facebook  
March 3: 6:30 pm Worship, East - Facebook  
March 10: 6:30 pm Worship, Augustana - Facebook  
March 17: 6:30 pm Worship, East - Facebook  
March 24: 6:30 pm Worship, Augustana - Facebook

All information is subject to change.

*Augustana and East SveadahL Lutheran Churches*  
*Gene Alms, Interim Pastor Lyfa Klee, Visitation Deacon*