

# AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR

In the spirit of the New Year, I offer ten scripture passages to hold in your heart in 2017. These aren't the top ten or the best ten, just a suggestion. I often find that simple reminders such as these help me place my trust in God.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalm 119:105*

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. *Psalm 148:1-5,12-13*

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." *John 14:6-7*

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." *Matthew 22:37-38*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. *First Thessalonians 5:16-17*

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. *Genesis 1:31a*

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Matthew 11:28-30*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. *Philippians 4:13*

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. *Ephesians 4:11-12*

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:6-7*

Pastor Kathleen

## **Augustana**

### **January Circles**

- Jan. 3: Martha Circle 7:00 pm - Augustana  
 Jan. 10: Rebecca Circle 11:30 am – Encore  
 (1 week later)  
 \*No Sewing Circle in Dec. 2016 & Jan. 2017\*

### **Acolytes**

- Jan. 1: Volunteers  
 Jan. 8: Brandi Pierson & Emily Gronewold  
 Jan. 15: Peyton Engeling & Sydney Engelking  
 Jan. 22: Lucas Kulseth & Hayden Davis  
 Jan. 29: Macyn Hirschmann & Kimberly Lothert

### **Altar Guild**

Marlys Gilbertson, Deanna Hoffman,  
 Nancy Kunkel, Bonnie Reid, Judy Sizer

### **Blood Pressure Screening**

- Jan. 8: Kristi Zellmann (1 week later than usual)

### **Communion Servers**

- Jan. 1: Deanna Hoffman, Greg Thulien  
 Jan. 8: Jessie Shores, Kari Miest, Mark Kulseth,  
 Kathy Eiden

### **Greeters**

- Jan. 1: Darrell & Leora Ask  
 Jan. 8: Philip & LaVonne Anderson  
 Jan. 15: John & Jeanne Miest  
 Jan. 22: Ruth Haler  
 Jan. 29: Bert & Gerry Swenson

### **Lectors**

- Jan. 1: Terry Engel  
 Jan. 8: Deb Style  
 Jan. 15: Kristen Gertsema  
 Jan. 22: Lisa Carlson  
 Jan. 29: Jim Moody

### **Radio Sponsors**

- Jan. 1: Jerry & Lynette Noren and family from  
 East in Memory of Loved Ones  
 - broadcast from Augustana  
 Jan. 22: Broadcast from Augustana

### **Radio Broadcasts**

Sponsor a month for \$65.00 or one of four  
 segments for \$16.25 each. March-August  
 broadcasts are from East due to early service times.

## **Augustana**

### **January Coffee Hour**

- Jan. 1: Stan & Nancy Kunkel, Kyla Schlomann,  
 Don Flater  
 Jan. 8: Lloyd & Andrea Sandberg,  
 Bob & Janet Plath  
 Jan. 15: Jim & Judy Anderson, Lorraine Petersen,  
 Joyce Pierson  
 Jan. 22: Darrell & Leora Ask,  
 Jim & Jackie Harrington  
 Jan. 29: Lisa Carlson, Ruth Haler,  
 John & Jeanne Miest

### **Missionary Sponsors**

The month of January is still available.

### **Ushers**

Ed Connell, Judy Berg, Jim Leopold,  
 Myron Engel, Terry Engel, Ruth Haler,  
 Mark Kulseth, Mike Kulseth.

### **Altar Flowers**

If you would like to furnish Altar Flowers for a  
 particular Sunday there is a poster in the Narthex to  
 sign up on. Flowers can be ordered and paid for at  
 Creative Touch Greenhouse.

### **Memorials**

In Memory of Donna Westman  
 \$10.00 Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Lynn Overson  
 \$20.00 Cemetery Fund  
 \$10.00 Parking Lot

### **Funerals**

Donna Marie Westman passed away on November  
 22, 2016 and graveside funeral was held on  
 November 28, 2016.

Lynn Carroll Overson passed away on November  
 28, 2016 and funeral was held at Augustana on  
 December 12, 2016.

Please continue to keep these families in your  
 thoughts and prayers.

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**A New Year's resolution is something that  
 goes in one year and out the other.**

**EAST**

**RADIO BROADCASTS**

January 1: Augustana  
 8: Albion  
 15: First Lutheran, St. James  
 22: Augustana  
 29: First Lutheran, St. James

**ACOLYTES**

January 1:

**ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Erma and Deb

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Tom and George

**VISITING COMMITTEE**

Cindy and Lorita

**COFFEE HOUR**

January 1: Cindy Torkelson  
 8: Mike Menssen  
 15: Lorita Nasman  
 22: Teresa Andrews  
 29:

**WELCA**

No meetings in January

**USHERS**

**LECTORS**

January 1: Tom Anderson  
 8: Wes Beck  
 15: Sonja Coleman  
 22: Erma Griffith  
 29: Jarah Hagen

**EAST RADIO BROADCASTS in 2017**

We need **East sponsors** for these five months. Please contact Susan if you want to sponsor a broadcast. The cost is \$65.00.

January 1: Jerry Noren Family  
 April 30: H. Noren Family  
 July 30: W. Jurgens  
 October 29: need sponsor  
 December 31: need sponsor

**EAST**

**TRANSITIONS:**

The Service of Christian Burial was held for **Lavan Ovedia (Olson) Berndt Lofgren Morgan** on December 19, 2016, at East. Lavan was born May 11, 1926, and passed away on December 5<sup>th</sup>. May God's peace comfort her family and friends.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Barbara, Viola, Norman, Emery, Dianne, Jacob, Chloe, Pedro

**STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:**

Needed through November	\$60,544.99
Received through November	42,576.90
Behind through November	- \$17,968.09
Received in November	\$ 3,235.00

**EAST EXTRAS**

If you haven't picked up your **2017 WELCA booklet**, it is on the table in the basement. If there is a booklet you could deliver to a member, please take it to them. Thanks!

*Happy January Birthday  
 Happy Baptismal Birthday*

- 1 Vickie Janzen [2-4]
- 2 Todd Anderson [2-16]
- 3 Kris Suess [2-8]  
 Susan Anderson [5-29]
- 6 Evelyn Johnson [1-28]
- 7 Nathan Jurgens [2-19]
- 9 Brent Coleman [2-28]
- 11 Phyllis Jurgens [3-3]  
 Makya Keosaksith [4-15]
- 14 James Nasman [3-15]
- 15 David Anderson [2-28]
- 18 Terrance Bridges [5-2]  
 Nicole Johnson [4-15]  
 Dacen Anderson [3-17]
- 24 Madison Dougherty [4-00]
- 28 Jennifer Ewert [2-26]
- 29 Dale Anderson [3-15]  
 Thomas Johnson [4-3]  
 Brayden Fast [2-09]  
 Kaystyn Keosaksith [7-11]

# AES January News

**HELP!** Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, **January 3rd** at **9:00 a.m.** to take down and put away the St. Lucia decorations. Any help will be appreciated!

**TLC** The TLC schedule resumes on **January 4**. Worship on January 4 at 5:30 pm, will include Holy Communion and will be an Epiphany worship service. Supper will be served at 6 pm.

**FACEBOOK** “Like” the Augustana/East Sveadahl Ministries Facebook page for pictures, updates, and inspiration. Visit the AES Ministries website – [www.augustananchurch.org](http://www.augustananchurch.org).

**WEATHER INFORMATION** AES members, please listen to **101.5 FM** (KRRW, St. James), **8:60 AM** (KNUJ New Ulm) for cancellations of church services or activities. Augustana is also listed on **keyctv.com** or on KEYCTV scroll on TV. Notifications are also on the answering machine (375-4792) at Augustana. If school is cancelled or closed early, TLC and confirmation classes will also be cancelled. Check the AES website at [www.augustanachurch.org](http://www.augustanachurch.org). We ask that you use common sense before venturing out in bad weather. Please keep safe!

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

**ADDRESS CHANGES** Changing your address – going “south”, coming “north”, moving – please get your address change to Sue at the Augustana office or Susan at 375-5831.

**SVEADAHN YOGA** Yoga with Cindy resumes in February.

**VISITS** Our Pastors would like to visit you! If you would like to be visited in your home, in the hospital, wherever, please contact them: Pr. Kathleen at 375-4792 or 507-276-1615 and Pr. Webster at 507-956-2177 or 507-317-6670.

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You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future!

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

### AUGUSTANA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Augustana Lutheran Church of Saint James has been scheduled for **January 29, 2017**, following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. All reports are due in the office by **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. Again this year, the reports **will not be mailed**, but will be available for members to pick up in various areas of the church. Please bring your copy back with you the day of the meeting.

### EAST SVEADAHN ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the East Sveadahl Lutheran Church and Cemetery Association will be held on **Sunday, February 5, 2017**, following the 10:30 am morning worship service and potluck dinner.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

- ~ **January 10 – Tuesday** -- All financial reports turned in (Include all bank statements; year-end papers)  
-- All written reports turned in (Pastor's, Property, WELCA)
- ~ **January 16 – Monday** -- Audited reports turned in      Auditors: **Debbie, Dianne, Wes**

This year's Nominating Committee: **Bernie, Lorita, Joann, Teresa**

## AUGUSTANA SIGN-UPS

### --- MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

The sign-up sheet for 2017 Missionary Sponsorship is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. It only costs \$20.00 per Sunday to help support our missionary.

--- **ALTAR FLOWERS** There is also a sheet to sign up to furnish Altar flowers.

### --- RADIO BROADCASTS

Augustana is responsible for radio sponsors for the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month of 2017**.

January 22	July 23
February 26	August 27
March 26	September 24
April 23	October 22
May 28	November 26
June 25	December 24

The March – August broadcasts have to be from East, because the broadcast must be from the church with the 8:30 am service time. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The cost is \$65.00; this cost can be divided into four segments at \$16.25 each.

Thank you for the many, many years of faithful support for these ministry outreaches of Augustana to both the local community and the world.

## BIBLE CAMP 2017

**Mark your calendar now!** These are our scheduled weeks at Bible Camp this coming summer!

June 25-30 – Grades 9-12 at Camp House

July 30-August 4 – Grades 1-5 at Shores of St. Andrew (includes the Half Blast option)  
Grades 6-9 at Green Lake

## WELCA NEWS

### East

**A WELCA REQUEST** This request has been made for ALL members of WELCA Committee #2. Would you please send your current email address, or current home or cell number, if you don't do email, to Lorita Nasman at [keechlorita@hotmail.com](mailto:keechlorita@hotmail.com) or call her at 507-621-0315. The committee will be using emails (or phone) as a way of keeping in touch. Thank you.

### Augustana

WELCA will be hosting a Baby Shower for Jesus on **January 8** during coffee hour. Layettes containing onesies, diapers, bibs, blankets, sleepers, and sweaters/jackets are provided to families in Watonwan County through Human Services. Sizes should be 3 month and above, and monetary donations will be used to purchase needed items. In 2016 seventeen layettes were provided to Human Services for families.

No sewing circle in January

## THANK YOU

**Many thanks to Rick Carlson**, Director of Faith Formation Ministries. Rick has resigned his position effective December 31, 2016.

Rick served as volunteer Sunday School superintendent, VBS leader, and youth group volunteer for many years before he was on staff. He has touched many lives and taught many children and youth the love of Jesus through his ministry as a volunteer and staff member.

Thank you, Rick for your dedication and ministry to children, youth and families at Augustana and East Sveadahl.

You will continue to see Rick here as a volunteer and church member and we know God will continue to work through him in our congregation and community. Thank you, Rick!

You are a blessing to our congregations.

Thank you for sharing the Christmas spirit with me and others. Thank you for the cookies, beautiful poinsettia, and your visits. All is very much appreciated!  
Evelyn Johnson

Many thanks to those who decorated East for Christmas. The decorations helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit. Your efforts were appreciated by all.

Thank you to everyone who shared poinsettias at East:

Steve & Charlotte Johnson family; Kris & Tom Suess family; Cora Noren's family; Dianne Miller; Lori & Chad Urevig, Mackenzie; Lisa Shellum family; Paul & Cindy Torkelson family; Ray & Leola Anderson's family; Angie Noren family; Rich & Teresa Andrews; Jimmy Anderson & Julene Hoffman; Lowell Bloomquist family; Herbert & Karen Noren's family; Dale & Deb Anderson family,

Thanks to the Ladies for the nice plate of cookies I received. A Blessed Christmas to you all.

Harland Hultgren

Thank you so much to Augustana Church for the gift certificate from the Country Collage and to the Augustana WELCA for the wonderful fruit basket for Christmas!

Sue Melheim

(continued)

## THANK YOUS

Dear East Sveadahl WELCA:

Thank you very much for the gift certificate to the Home Town Café. Glad you remembered my favorite eating place. Wishing you God's Blessings in the New Year. Pastor Dave Webster

The AESY youth raised \$2,100 at their Silent Auction fundraiser on December 4. This was their best auction ever. Thank you to everyone who worked at the auction, donated items, or purchased items. You all made this a huge success.

A special thank you to Chris Bass and Sandy Berg. They are the driving force behind this auction and have been for many years. They put in countless hours securing donations, organizing the items, and getting everything set up for the auction. Please make a point to thank them for all that they do. It's hard to imagine how this auction would go without them. Rick Carlson

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for the cookies you brought to me. It means so much not to be forgotten. Thank you for taking the time to do this. Bless You Kaethe Morgan

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 6

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6 is known in Christian tradition as **Epiphany**. It is the **12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas** that we sing about, and sometimes is called the **Twelfth Night**.

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6. "Epiphany", which means "Showing forth", celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn, "The Light of the World Is Jesus". The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost In the darkness of sin,  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in.  
The Light of the world is Jesus!

February 25

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS

The next Equipping our Congregations event will be **Saturday, February 25, 2017**, at **Vinje Lutheran Church** and **Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar** from **8:30 am – 3:30 pm**.

Rozella Haydee White currently serves as the Houston City Director for Mission Year. As a writer, teacher, preacher, and public theologian, she is a known presence on social media boldly engaging issues of faith, justice, mental illness, and the radical transformational love of Jesus. This year's theme is *Everyday Reformers*. Registration will open soon.

Caitlin Kodet, the contact person, can be reached at [caitlin.kodet@swmnelca.org](mailto:caitlin.kodet@swmnelca.org) or 507-637-3904.

## January 8

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Watonwan County Historical Society will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** from **9 am – 1 pm** at the **St. James Eagle's Club**. The menu will include pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, and beverages. Free will donation will be taken. Thank you for your support of the Historical Society.

## June 2017

## TRIP

### Attention Young Adults! South Africa...

Your Watonwan River Conference Partnership Committee is putting together a trip specifically for **Young Adults** ages 18-35 to travel to be with Young Adults in South Africa. We will be traveling in **June 2017**. While the itinerary has not been put together, the trip will include time with a paired Lutheran Shiyane person in South Africa. (For instance, we would try to pair a teacher with a teacher). You would have some time to see some of the countryside as well as time to learn about some of the history of South Africa. Primarily, though, we would be building human Lutheran to Lutheran bridges. The trip will end with participating in the "Youth" League Conference, which takes place June 28-July 1. (Youth in SA are defined as those who are between the ages of 18 and 40).

Our SWMN Synod is also interested in young adult participation and will be providing funding for 1 or 2 people to go. IF you have an inkling of interest, for further details please contact Pastor Rebecca Sullivan 507 344 8336 or 507 380 6180(c) or [gardenrevkah@gmail.com](mailto:gardenrevkah@gmail.com).

Applications for this trip will be due by **January 15, 2017**, but sooner is better!

## GREEN LAKE CAMPS

- January 20-22 - **SNOW CAMP** for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders at St. Andrews
- January 20-22 – **ICE FISHING CAMP** at St. Andrews
- February 10-12 – **GOOD NEWS, GOOD BREWS MEN'S RETREAT** at St. Andrews
- March 3-5 – **FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT** at Green Lake
- March 24-26 – **SPRING FEVER ELEMENTARY RETREAT** at Green Lake
- April 7-9 – **CREATIVE SOULS CRAFT RETREAT** at Green Lake
- April 21-23 – **WOMEN'S RETREAT** at St. Andrew

Interested? You can find more information and register online at [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org) or call 320-796-2181.

## BUNDLE ME WARM

Watonwan County Human Services is collaborating with Community Services Director, Linda Buller, to host a Bundle Me Warm Coat Drive. The drop site is Watonwan County Human Services. We will continue to accept winter apparel all season long. We are in need of children's coats, snow pants, hats, mittens and gloves. We are also accepting adult winter apparel. Drop off hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done!

Friendships multiply joys and divide griefs. - Henry George Bohn



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Many local families and individuals find it difficult to pay their monthly energy bills. The Minnesota Valley Action Council Energy Assistance Program provides a grant for income-eligible households which can help defray some of these costs. This leaves more of the family resources available for other expenses. We can also assist households in crisis situations with disconnect notices or when they are almost out of heating fuel. Grants are paid directly to the vendor on their behalf!

Households can request an application by calling MVAC at (507) – 345-6822 or 800-767-7139 or by downloading it from our website at [mnvac.org](http://mnvac.org).

Applications become available in early September. Funds become available late in the year, generally mid to late November. The program ends May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

## AES Youth Newsletter

### January 2017

Hello to all AESY and Parents!!!!

As we begin a new calendar year the youth committee is charged and excited to be with you in your journey with Christ. We are committed to bringing you many and meaningful events throughout the year.

Dominique Berg, AESY Chair

Snow Tubing at Mt. Kato - Date: January 22, 2017

Time: Depart 12:00 pm/Return 4:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00

Grades: 3-12 (Grades 3-5 must be accompanied by an adult)

Steak Fry Fundraiser - Saturday January 14th at 4:45 pm at the VFW.

We will be calling students and parents for various jobs and shifts.

AESY Senior High Night - The senior high grades 9th - 12th are invited January 11, 18, 25 for a supper 6:00 pm in the social hall and several events planned after from 6:30-7:30 pm.

According to the New Safe Haven policy passed by the council, all events will be required to have the proper amount and gender of chaperones. This will require some help from parents for events and the committee will be calling on you. Also each event will need a permission and emergency information sheet. These will be posted by the education wing's bulletin board along with other future events.

**EAST SVEADAHL WELCA MEETING MINUTES – December 1, 2016**

East Sveadahl Women of ELCA held their annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 PM.

President Janet Bloomquist welcomed everyone and a special welcome to our guests from other churches. Janet shared a Christmas reading followed by prayer. Table prayer was then sung to the tune of "Away In A Manger".

A very delightful meal was prepared by Committee#1. Some of our East men were our servers and helpers. Thank you so much to these men for helping out. Committee #2 was in charge of the beautiful decorating. Committee #3 planned the program.

Lighting of Memorial Candle was lit in memory of Frances Ostberg. Bless her memory.

Ruth Haler shared her feelings about coming to her home church and how she so much enjoys seeing the beauty of East at Christmas time. She mentioned that St. Lucia will be held at Augustana on Saturday, December 10, starting with breakfast at 6:30 AM. Welcome to come and enjoy breakfast, a bake sale and a morning of festive enjoyment.

Some of the money received from lefse sales will be given to following charities:

Wellspring	\$ 50.00	ELCA Good Gifts-Blankets	\$ 50.00
Backpack Program	50.00	CADA	50.00
Operation Concern Fund	100.00	Watowan Co. Food Shelf	50.00
Sharing Tree	50.00	East Church Front Doors	500.00

Program entitled "Christmas Gifts" was given by Erma, Julene, Teresa, Kris, Sonja, and Fran. Lisa was accompanist for all Christmas hymns sung. Trio of Lorna Henderson, Janet, and Sonja sang two songs, "The Greatest Gift of All" and "The Gift to be Simple" accompanied by Lisa.

Pastor Kathleen shared a message of Jesus Being the Greatest Gift of All. Lisa shared a song that brought memories of past called "Christmas Delights".

Offering was then received and will be given to the local Operation Concern Fund.

Prayer given by Janet. Closing Christmas favorite "Silent Night" was sung as lights were dimmed and everyone held a lit candle. This was a very heartwarming moment.

Janet thanked all our guests for coming and to all who helped in any way to make this festive evening so memorable. Blessings to all.

Secretary, Sonja Coleman

**EAST SVEADAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – December 8, 2016**

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 7 p.m.. Those present were Tom Anderson, Janet Bloomquist, Creig Noren, Wayne Jurgens, George Nasman, Rick Carlson, Susan Anderson, and Pastor Kathleen.

Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathleen.

Secretary, Janet Bloomquist read minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by George, seconded by Wayne and passed.

In the absence of Jana Anderson, no financial report was given.

Treasurer, Creig Noren presented the Treasurer's report. Motion by Janet, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the report.

Bills were presented by Creig. Motion by Wayne, seconded by George, and passed to approve the paying of bills.

The Red Rock Rural Water bill was discussed.

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**Pastor Kathleen** presented her report. She reminded us of St. Lucia which is Saturday, December 10 at Augustana and the TLC Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18.

**Rick Carlson**, Director of Faith Formation Ministries for AES reported on the activities of our youth. Please see complete report in the newsletter.

Susan Anderson, church secretary, presented her report.

Annual meeting date was set for Sunday, February 5.

**Old Business:**

1. Tom thanked George, Jim, and Wayne for moving the storage building donated by Augustana which will house cemetery tools.
2. Tom announced that the Board of Adjustments gave approval to the request that the parsonage be sold as a three acre parcel.

**New Business:**

1. Women's bathroom was discussed with a few minor updates needed.
2. Discussed Lenten Services & TLC.
3. Thanked Rick Carlson for his youth work as this was his last meeting with us.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist

## AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -- December 14, 2016

Present: Dominique Berg, Kathy Eiden, Terry Engel, Jim Harrington, Deanna Hoffman, Mark Kulseth, Stan Kunkel, Kari Miest, Greg Thulien, Lynn Watson, Pr. Kathleen, Rick Carlson & Judy Thulien

Absent: Kristen Gertsema and Jessie Shores

Mark Kulseth called the meeting to order. Devotions were shared by Greg Thulien

Secretary's report was approved as printed.

Financial Secretary's report shows that we have been receiving consistent offerings which brings us more inline by comparison.

Judy Thulien presented the Treasurer's report. No unusual expenses were noted. MSC to approve as presented.

**Pastor Kathleen:** She has had several funerals over the last month. She is asking for help in these areas: writing notes to visitors, working with the website, deciding on where to place artwork, assisting ministers for worship, and adding pinterest to the website. A third grade teacher is needed for TLC as the numbers have grown. She would like to purchase two albs for assisting ministers. Also is thinking we need to train communion ministers to take communion to the homebound.

**AES Ministries:** No meeting. Next meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup>. Need 2 persons to serve on the Joint Council.

**DOFFM Rick:** Had a bowling event for 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders on November 13<sup>th</sup>. There were 4 youth that attended the Jr. High Youth Gathering. All were first time attendees.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education:** Christmas program is December 18th at 10:30 am. Youth will be serving a brunch from 9-10 am before the program. VBS is scheduled for May 15 - 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:00 am. TLC is having almost 100% attendance each week.

**Evangelism/Social Ministry:** The Campus Ministry representative that was coming to visit us has been put on hold. There have been some personnel changes and so the schedule is in flux at this time.

**Finance:** Mark, Deanna, and Judy met to go over the 2017 budget to present to the council.

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**Property/Cemetery:** Stan discussed the estimates for repairs needed to the windows and the tuck pointing. These items will be presented at the annual meeting for approval. Estimates have been checked for cost evaluation and are found to be in correct range for the maintenance that is needed. The doors are paid for, and Tom Suess will be able to get them in in the next couple weeks.

**Youth Ministry:** Dominique reported that he met with Chris Bass and went over the AESY treasury. They have a good start saving for the 2018 National Youth Gathering, but are needing to continue to work toward their goal. Reviewed fund raising.

Christmas Brunch and December steak fry. Reviewed their budget for 2017, and discussed allocating funds for youth educational and resource materials. On January 11, 2017, and from then until April they will be having a Sr. high youth gathering for grades 9-12 for supper and other activities from 6:30-7:30 pm. This will run on Wednesdays like the TLC. Up-coming event is snow tubing at Mt Kato in January for grades 3-12. Cost is being worked on. They also discussed how they can work together and divide the responsibilities of the committee. Pr. Kathleen added that she has reserved spots at Camp House by Duluth for Sr. High youth the week of June 26<sup>th</sup>. Runs Sunday to Friday.

**Worship & Music:** Met November 29<sup>th</sup> to review the schedule. Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 pm and Christmas Day at 9 am - no coffee hour. Terry is working on Liturgy for after Epiphany.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Bills have been received for the parking lot and have come in higher than anticipated. More gravel was needed than was anticipated, thus more loads and more labor to level and pack. Tom Anderson's bill is for \$22,000 (70 loads), and Bryan Nelson's is \$7,000. We also received a tax bill on the property for the lot in the amount of \$1200. This is being checked into, as we did pay the taxes last year. Electricity is almost complete on the parking lot/storage building. MSC to withdraw \$20,000 from Thrivent to pay these additional costs. The budget was discussed and several increases/decreases were discussed and will be adjusted for approval at the January council meeting for presentation at the annual meeting. Storage shed estimate came in at \$4000. After discussion it was decided to delay this until spring and have it completed by members with an estimated cost of \$1,000.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Annual meeting agenda was discussed for additions needed. The Safe Harbour Guidelines were presented and approved to be implemented January 1, 2017.

**\*\*\* Annual meeting will be held following worship on January 29, 2017 \*\*\***

Next meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM - Devotions by Lynn Watson

Communion Servers: Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: Deanna, Jim, Greg & Lynn

Jan 1<sup>st</sup>: Deanna & Greg

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>: Jessie, Kari, Mark & Kathy

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Deanna Hoffman, Secretary

**A Prayer for today and the New Year ...**

May today there be peace within.

May you trust your highest power, that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith,

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing and dance.

It is there for each and every one of us.



It is not what we have, but what we give. It is not what we are, but how we live.  
It is not what we do, but how we do it, That makes this life worth going through it!

# WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?

What are you carrying?

What are you carrying as Christmas approaches?

There is no mention of a donkey in the Christmas text. But whether or not there was a donkey, people all were carrying different things.

Joseph was probably carrying more questions than just, "Where are we going to stay?"

Mary was "heavy with child," carrying the fear of her first birth and the question of how this happened.

The innkeeper was carrying his compassion to allow this family to have a place to stay, even if all he could offer was a common room or stable.

The shepherds were carrying the way that people thought about them in town. More so, they were carrying the joy of knowing God was up to something special. They also were carrying the terror they felt at being encountered by an army of angels.

Angels were carrying "Good News" to give hope to all people.

God knows what you are carrying in these days beyond presents, full hearts, weary minds, longings, and hopes. God knows what you are carrying whether it be sadness, joys, hopes, or fears.

Even as we celebrate and seek to be free from all that we carry for a while, we know that Jesus - the one whose birth we celebrate - carried a cross for you, me, and all of humanity.

It all starts with a baby so small and vulnerable you could carry him with one hand like a football. But God's work through Jesus continues to unfold. Martin Luther, in his Large Catechism, says the work of God in Jesus is "so rich and broad that we never can learn it fully." (Book of Concord p. 435).

Let's carry that awareness as we approach the celebration of Christ Jesus' birth, life, and message.

*4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good*

news of great joy for all the people. 11 To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Top Row: Tammy Sather, Carla Klawitter, Rev. Kathryn Skoglund, Caitlin Kodet, Kristin Bakeberg

Bottom Row: Deb Hess, Bp. Jon Anderson, Rev. Linda Pedersen, Rev. Larry Strenge.

Not Pictured: Sarah Hausken and Rev. Andrew Hermodson-Olsen.

As we celebrate this season, the synod office will be closed Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26, as well as Monday, January 2.



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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**Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner, Pastor  
David Webster, Visitation Pastor**

**January Newsletter  
2017**

