

AES MINISTRIES

Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Pastor's Column

Dear Members of AES,

Greetings! Happy Fall! This is by far my most favorite time of year. The changing colors, cooler temperatures, and pumpkin flavored everything are just a few of the many things I love about this season. One of my favorite days in the church calendar happens to occur in Fall as well – Reformation Sunday! This year Reformation Sunday falls on October 31st (Halloween).

Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-Five Theses” in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, and the resulting debate about Christian teaching and practice led to changes that have shaped the course of Western Christianity for over 500 years. At the heart of these changes was a deep conviction that God’s grace in Jesus is **given freely to all people**. When Luther and others learned to trust God’s grace with confidence, they discovered in that faith the freedom to give themselves generously in all of life’s undertakings with everyone they met.

On October 31, 2017, the ELCA commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Washington, D.C. with a day-long program livestreamed across the country. I was honored to have been invited to be one of the five speakers at that event. I got to speak in Washington D.C. on my work involving inter-religious and ecumenical relations and the importance of building those relationships as the church continues to reform in the future. It was a day full of looking back, but also looking forward to the next 500 years and dreaming of how we as the church can live more fully into God’s grace. It was a day of repenting for ways we have failed to share God’s grace with all of God’s people, and a day full of rejoicing that we have been called and equipped to do better.

As I look at the current state of the world we live in right now, I hear those words of Martin Luther echo ever so strongly in my mind – **God’s grace is for all people**. These divisive times we find ourselves in are difficult to say the least. Social media has not helped, as it has given us yet another platform to argue, degrade, and belittle one another over differing views and opinions. At the heart of the reformation was this radical idea that even in divisiveness, it is God’s grace that brings us together, and it is God’s grace that is for everyone – even those we simply cannot understand.

As we look ahead to Reformation Sunday and as we continue to reform as the church, I encourage us to reflect and live into the very foundation to which our Lutheran faith was founded – grace. Let us be bathed in it. Let us offer it to others. Let us praise God for the gift of grace that we are unworthy to receive, yet it is poured out upon us.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a person could stake their life on it a thousand times.” – Martin Luther

Grace to you, dear church. Spread love and kindness.

Pastor Mandy

AUGUSTANA - October

CIRCLES

Martha Circle meets Wednesday the 6th,
9:00 am in Fireside Room.

Sally - Hostess/Devotions Kristi - Bible Lesson
All are welcome!

Rebecca Circle meets Tuesday the 5th,
9:30 am in Fireside Room.

Sewing Circle meets Tuesday the 19th, 9:00 am.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

October 3 – Kristi Zellmann

LECTORS

October 3: Erica Garza
10: Kristen Gertsema
17: Ruth Haler
24: Deb Style
31: Leora Ask

RADIO INFORMATION

Sponsor a half-hour broadcast for \$40.00.
East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month;
Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month;
5th Sundays are split between the churches.

To sponsor an Augustana broadcast,
call 375-4792.

A sponsor is needed from Augustana for the
October 24th radio broadcast.

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

For the month of October -- Gene and Carl Zarn
Please call the church office to sponsor our
Missionary. The cost is \$20.00 for a week.

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 calendar.

The Altar Flowers on October 17th are in
celebration of Bert and Gerry Swenson's
70th Wedding Anniversary.

AUGUSTANA - October

TRANSITIONS FUNERALS

A Celebration of Life was held for **Joyce Erdal**
on Friday, September 10th at Memorial Park. She
passed away on September 1, 2021.

Please continue to keep her family and friends
in your thoughts and prayers.

We welcomed into God's Family and AES
Ministries, **Elijah Yash France**, son of Pastors
Mandy and Kelly France, on September 11, 2021.

We welcomed into God's Family, Augustana's
Family, and AES Ministries, **Freya Jean**
Whitehead, daughter of Christopher and Anna
Whitehead, on September 26, 2021.

Please continue to keep these children and their
families in your prayers as they grow
in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

TRANSFER

CoraLee and Scarlett Vicario transferred their
membership to Crossroads Church, St. James, MN.

USHERS for OCTOBER

Bob Plath, John Coleman, Andrew Farr,
Stan Kunkel, Janet Plath,
Lloyd and Andrea Sandbeg, Kyla Schломann

COFFEE HOUR

October 3: WELCA
10: John and Jeanne Miest
17: Bert & Gerry Swenson, in celebration
of their 70th Wedding Anniversary
24: Available
31: Available

ALTAR GUILD

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

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lynda Overson
\$20.00 – Undesignated

EAST - October

TRANSITIONS:

Congratulations to **Matthew Leigh Jurgens** and **Abby Nicole Frederickson** who were married on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at East.
May God richly bless them!

Elijah Yash France, son of Pastors Mandy and Kelly France, was baptized September 11, 2021 at South Side Park. He was born April 26, 2019. His sponsors were Joel and Rachel Gueningsman and Ann and Cory Bolton. Pr. Matthew Seegert was the officiant.

Welcome to AES Ministries and God's Family!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Tom, Ray, Everett, Chloe, Don, Mary Ann, Orval, Charles

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through August	\$47,712.00
Received through August	54,236.54
Ahead through August	+ \$ 6,524.54
Received in August	\$12,576.86

Happy Birthday Happy Baptismal Birthday

- 2 Cindy Torkelson 11-25
John Wolle 11-23
- 8 Daniel Avila 4-14
- 15 Tama Bridges 11-29
- 16 Scott Reinke
- 17 Denae Bridges 12-24
Sonja Coleman 11-23
- 18 Judy Beck 11-25
- 21 Nancy Vargeson 4 -
- 27 Emily Braaten 4-22
- 31 Tiffany Fast 12-16

Friends are necessary to a happy life.

EAST - October

RADIO BROADCASTS

October. 3: First Lutheran, St. James
10: East Sveadahl
17: First Lutheran, St. James
24: Augustana
31: East Sveadahl

VISITING COMMITTEE

Sonja Coleman and Julene Hoffman

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lisa Shellum and Lori Urevig

LECTORS

October 3: Cindy Torkelson
10: Trisha Anderson
17: Lori Newberg
24: Jerry Noren
31: Kris Suess

RADIO SPONSORS

October 10:
October 31:
November 14:
December 12:

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

Last Sunday in our worship service we took a moment to remember when our churches were in United In Faith Ministry, and how both of our churches this year are celebrating their 150th anniversaries.

What a blessing it is that East Sveadahl and Albion continue to be actively United in Faith to spread Christ's love to our rural communities.

To God be the Glory! Your Friends in Christ!

Albion Lutheran Church



AES October NEWS



NEWSLETTERS

If you are interested in having your newsletter come to you by email only and not a paper copy in the mail, please contact the Augustana church office or Susan.

If you are not a member of AES Ministries and no longer wish to receive a newsletter, please contact us.

Current monthly newsletters are also available on the AES website at www.augustanachurch.org.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Facebook: “Like” the Augustana/East Sveadahl Ministries Facebook page for pictures, updates, and inspiration. Please text information and pictures to Lisa Carlson.

AES Ministries website: www.augustanachurch.org Please send information to the church secretaries.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Changing your address – please inform Sue at the Augustana Office or Susan at East Sveadahl. We would like to stay in contact with you! Please send your new address! Thank you.

PRAYERS and PRAISES

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

PASTORAL VISITS

If you would like Pr. Mandy or Deacon Lyla to visit you, please contact them: Pr. Mandy at 375-4792, 651-800-6692, or aesministriespastor@gmail.com, and Lyla at 507-739-6940 or 507-227-9250.

MONDAY PRAYER MEETINGS

Every Monday morning at 10:00 am you are invited to join a weekly prayer meeting which lasts for about 20 minutes. The link is found on the AES website or type in:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77502081644?pwd=NTdkeXB6TUlrazliSzVKZkhwTjg1UT09>

WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT

AES MINISTRIES -- East and Augustana:

Listen to 101.5 FM (KRRW), 8:60 AM (KNUJ), Channel 12 KEYC-TV, check our website at www.augustanachurch.org, or our Facebook page for any snow emergency information.

If school is closed early, confirmation will be cancelled.

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
 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

BAKELESS BAKE SALE

The Augustana WELCA is hosting a “**Bakeless Bake Sale**” on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Donations can be given at worship, mailed to church, or dropped in the payment box. Any questions, please call Judy Berg at 375-4759. Envelopes for donations are included in this newsletter and can be returned to Augustana Lutheran Church.

The Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraising Poem

Many is the time I heard you say
I would rather give a “Dollar” than bake today
And so, we are asking you to help more or less
To make our Bakeless Bake Sale a big success.

Just send us the money that it would take
To bake a loaf of bread or a beautiful cake
Or send in the amount of money it takes to buy
A dozen rolls or maybe a pie.
We know you can help us if you will but try.



NOISY OFFERING

October has five Sundays! The next Noisy Offering Sunday will be October 31st – Reformation Sunday. The church councils determine where the offering is given. Start saving!

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone at AES who made Elijah's baptism so special! Thank you to Augustana for the beautiful faith chest and everything that it was filled with. That is quite the treasure! Thank you to East Sveadahl for the generous gift you gave Elijah as well as the beautiful certificate. I am thankful everyday to have been called to a parish that has welcomed my family with so much love.

Thank you! - Pastor Mandy

EXPLANATION OF GOD by Danny, age 8 A 3rd Grade Homework Assignment

“You can pray anything you want and they (God and Jesus) are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time”

“You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there’s anybody you want to make happy, it’s God”

“But...you shouldn’t just always think of what God can do you for. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.”

YOUTH INFORMATION

BIBLES

On October 24th, all 3rd and 4th graders will receive Bibles during the worship service. I am including 4th graders because due to COVID they did not receive Bibles last year. Please plan to have a parent/guardian/grandparent present to hand the Bible to the student. This is to fulfill the Baptismal promise that the Scriptures will be placed in the child's hands. If your child has not been baptized - no worries! They are still welcome and encouraged to receive a Bible during worship. Any questions, please contact Pastor Mandy.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

November 19-20 / 20 / 20-21 at the Wilmar Conference Center for 6th – 9th Graders

“Faith can move Mountains”

Cost: \$60.00 (September 10-October 1); \$65.00 (October 2-October 17)

There is an option to attend on Saturday the 20th only.

See the posters on the bulletin boards in both churches, go to <https://swmnelca.org/event/jhyg2021/>, or contact Mark Kulseth at 507-381-3968 for more information.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

8TH-12TH GRADERS PLEASE NOTE:

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering "Boundless" for 8th-12th grade 2021

NEED TO KNOW

Early Bird Registration for this great gathering in Minneapolis is Wednesday, September 22, 2021 through November 21, 2021. You will save \$90.00 if you register early. \$150 per person is due at the time of registration. The Gathering Committee is recommending 1 adult per 7 youth.

Return registrations to the church office. Any questions, contact Mark Kulseth – 507-381-3968.

WHAT'S NEW?

Full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of negative test is now required to attend the 2022 Gathering. This has been decided by the Gathering Committee for 2022. You can find the information you need on their website <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

PRAISES!

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND you try and go to the Gathering they are AMAZING!!!! This is a monumental experience!! Notes coming to you from an old Gathering participant in the '70's and in 2003. “:) I will never forget them! I wish every student could go and all the adults in our congregation! It is so renewing!”

Loving being a Lutheran! Cindy Torkelson

IN A NUTSHELL

A Sunday School teacher gave her second graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was so excited about the task, but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the day came for the children to recite the Psalm before the congregation, the very nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, “The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I ever need to know!”

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTALLATION SERVICE

All members of AES Ministries are invited to attend the Service of Holy communion with the Installation of the **Rev. Dr. Dee Pederson** as Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm at Granite Falls Lutheran Church, 350 9th Avenue, Granite Falls with a reception to follow. RSVP: www.swmnelca.org/installation

WELLSPRING

The Annual WELLSPRING Fundraiser – a Hotdish Luncheon – is Wednesday, October 27th from 11 am – 1 pm at the Eagles Club. Free Will donation. Delivery Available.

WELLSPRING activities will be listed in bulletins or check their Facebook page – WELLSPRING Faith in Action.

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Conference is October 11-12 via Zoom.

REFORMATION SUNDAY – October 31

During October, Protestants celebrate the work of the Reformers – Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and others – who brought about much needed change in the Christian Church. These four teachings were at the heart of their contributions: Word Alone-the Bible is the surest guide for faith and life; Grace Alone-We are right with God when we accept God's love given to us freely; Faith Alone-It is by believing and trusting, not through our own works that we find salvation; and the Priesthood of all Believers-Christians are all on the same level—we are reciprocally and mutually one.

Reformation Sunday is celebrated in Protestant churches on the Sunday nearest October 31, the anniversary of the Luther's posting on the church door.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know has difficulty paying their **monthly energy bills**, please request an application by calling MVAC (Minnesota Valley Action Council) at (507) 345-6822 or (800) 767-7139 or downloading the application from MVAC's website at mnavac.org. Applications will be available on October 1, 2021, and the deadline to apply is May 31, 2022. More information will be posted as it is received in Augustana's social hall and on the bulletin board in East.

EXPLANATION OF GOD by Danny, age 8 A 3rd Grade Homework Assignment

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So, you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he (Jesus) had done and all his hard work on earth, so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So, he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."

FIRESIDE CHAT



When you hear the name Tim Tebow, do you think of football, baseball, Christian, or just what? Well, all 3 would be correct. A new Young Adult book authored by Tebow is entitled, Shaken: Fighting to Stand Strong No Matter What Comes Your Way. The book talks about God's plan for your life, illustrated by some personal experiences. A good read, positive and affirming even if you are just young at heart!

The next new book to highlight is written by one of my favorite authors, Henri J. Nouwen. The title is Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety. It is an anxious time in the world we live in. Nouwen talks about following Jesus in such a time. He engages us in that, as well as speaking to fear, faithfulness and offers practical habits in stressful times. Perhaps more importantly, he speaks about hope. This book is certainly worthy of a read for some grounded inspiration and understanding.

Becky Cobb

"I can feel infinitely alive curled up on the sofa reading a book." -- Benedict Cumberbatch

FINANCIAL FACTS – AUGUSTANA – August 2021 Summary

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Total Giving	\$13,780.43	\$ 93,714.26
Total Expenses – Paid from	- \$ 9,003.75	- \$ 84,154.27
General Fund	+ 4,776.68	+ \$ 9,559.99

We are on a Roll.....! We have ended the last 2 months with a plus (+) sign. Thank you so much for making this happen!

There are many exciting things occurring at Augustana all at once. In addition to the usual Fall activities beginning, the Technology Building Project is underway. Your generous gifts have allowed this project to be accomplished with the funds given to date. The most recent equipment and construction of the platform will use most of the remaining funds. To help see this project completed without the need to borrow from the Memorial Fund, we have an anonymous member who will match 100% of gifts given at this time. A \$100 gift will become \$200. With this incentive we hope to have this technology enhancement completed before the end of the year.

Another exciting “Happening” is securing the bid for the Stained-Glass window project. Again, previous councils requested that we have the money in the account before we schedule this repair. The cost for the repairs we need have increased considerably so we will not be able to do all the windows at once. The balance in this account is \$40,042.18. The bid we received was for \$42,978.00 to repair the 10 windows on the south side of the church. This bid was only valid through September 2021. The council approved moving forward, and as requested by the company, I sent a deposit of 34% of the total bid to lock in this number and get us on their schedule.

Thank you for supporting all of the missions of Augustana!

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Thulien – Treasurer

AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 2, 2021

The AES Ministries Joint Council met on Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 7:00 pm at Augustana following protocols – masking and social distancing. Those present: Teresa Andrews, Janet Bloomquist, Becky Cobb, Terry Engel, Wayne Jurgens, Mark Kulseth, Mike Menssen, Susan Anderson, and Pr. Mandy. Not present: Leora Ask

Wayne called the meeting to order.

Pr. Mandy opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion was made (Mark), seconded (Becky), and carried to approve the minutes as presented in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Church picnic plans were reviewed. Worship will be outside that morning. People can sit at the picnic tables or bring their own lawn chairs.

Augustana will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, beans, chips, and ice cream cups. There will not be root beer floats this year.

East will provide paper products, condiments, purchased salads, and beverages.

PR. MANDY'S REPORT

Pr. Mandy and Deacon Lyla has been busy visiting our members. In October they will split the visitation list.

Fall programing is beginning. There are 26 confirmation students in grades 7-10. She is working on the logistics and materials for the classes, and the possibility of collaborating with Pr. Matt and the students at First Lutheran.

She is now on the Sunday service rotation at Brandt Ridge. She will alternate with Deacon Lyla leading devotions at Prairie View (Tuesdays) and Brandt Ridge (Thursdays) during September. They will be following the nursing home COVID protocols.

She is excited and happy to have people come into the office to visit and get acquainted.

Pr. Mandy will officiate at a wedding on September 4th.

The funeral policies of the churches were discussed.

TLC will begin on September 15th. Busing of the students from school to the church isn't an option at this time. During September Erica and a number of adults will meet the children at school and walk with them to Augustana. The students will need to have signed permission slips on file to do this. Students need to be 4 years of age to attend TLC.

She is beginning to plan worship for October and is looking forward to introducing some new ideas into the services. There will be Harvest Worship Services in both churches on September 26. The Augustana Choir won't be a part of the worship service yet. She will continue to include the children in all worship.

All plans are subject to change depending on the COVID numbers in our county.

NEW BUSINESS

Funerals, weddings, and all other church activities can continue as long as the church stays open and protocols are followed.

The COVID Protocol plan was reviewed and discussed. The plan is set up to keep our members safe, but also to keep the church open. The decision on what to do for each Sunday is based on the COVID numbers given out each Friday. If the protocol needs to be changed, a notice will be sent out via THE UPDATE email.

A motion was made (Janet), seconded (Mark), and carried to ratify the COVID policy with the changes made.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 7th, 7:00 pm at Augustana. The meeting day was changed to the first Thursday of the month to accommodate Pr. Mandy's schedule.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson, Secretary

EAST SVEADAHL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – September 9, 2021

The East Sveadahl Church Council met on September 9, 2021 at 7 p.m. at church. Those present were Wayne Jurgens, Janet Bloomquist, Erma Griffith, Evonne Moll, Susan Anderson, Sonja Coleman, and Pastor Mandy.

In the absence of Tom Anderson, Council Chairman, Wayne called the meeting to order. Pastor Mandy opened with prayer.

The August 2021 Secretary's report was approved as read.

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

A grant in the amount of \$500.00 was given to East Sveadahl from the T.RowePrice Charitable. Pastor Eugene Alms is the donor and the amount is to be used as needed in furtherance of our churches charitable purposes. A thank you was sent to Pastor Gene.

The outstanding bills were presented by Wayne. A motion by Janet, seconded by Erma and passed to approve paying of bills.

Pastor Mandy presented her report. Some highlights are:

- There are 26 students in Confirmation which includes students from last year who are not yet confirmed. They meet on Wednesdays and Pastor Mandy would like to spend time out at East with the group. She is looking at October 6 to be at East and have a bonfire and roast hot dogs. We approved the use of the church anytime she wishes.

- September 26 service will be a Harvest Blessing of the word. Susan read a note from Albion Church as we both celebrated our 150th anniversaries and have had a lasting friendship through the years.

The AES picnic plans were discussed.

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

The next church council meeting will be October 14, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Bloomquist, Council Secretary

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES for SEPTEMBER

We did not have a formal September AES education meeting. We had multiple small meetings throughout the month. We had a lot to get ready for with the beginning of TLC and confirmation. We are using Heja app on our phones. It's another way to communicate with our teachers and families. Erica Garza and Trish Anderson helped us get that going. Erica is our Education Director to help us communicate with parents, teachers and staff.

We are so excited to have Pastor Mandy lead us in our Christian faith! Welcome Pastor Mandy! There's wonderful energy in TLC with new and returning teachers this year! Trish Anderson is teaching the preschool and kindergartners. Debbie Anderson is teaching the 1st graders. Jill Beckius is our 2nd and 3rd grade teacher. Our 4th and 5th grade teacher is Taylor Berg, and Erica Garza is teaching 6th graders. Thank you so much for volunteering!

Kris Suess and Teresa Andrews is our stellar team for the kitchen! So glad to have you back taking care of snacks!

Becky Cobb continues with her prayer Zoom meetings. It is such a calming retreat.

We want to thank Mark and Lyn for helping us with the Youth Group while we find a director. The 7th-12th graders are great kids to work with!

With much love through Christ, Cindy Torkelson, Education Chair

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES -- September 8, 2021

Present: Kyla Schломann, Lisa Carlson, Terry Engel, Judy Thulien, Deanna Hoffman, Jill Beckius, Paul Missling, Lynn Watson, John Coleman, Dean Swenstad, Lyle Anderson, Mark Kulseth, Kristi Zellmann, Pastor Mandy

Absent: Andy Freitag

Mark called the meeting to order at 7PM in the Social Hall, and Paul shared a devotion to open the meeting.

Reports:

Motion by Lynn and seconded by Kyla to approve last month's meeting minutes as printed. Motion approved. Judy presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Lynn and seconded by Kristi to approve the report. Motion approved. Credit card for Mandy-Judy called the CC company and was told that the card was mailed 8-17 but Mandy has not received. Judy will call about it tomorrow. The listing for the church phone number in the White Pages is the kitchen phone number. Judy made several calls to get it corrected. She is waiting for a call of confirmation. ZOOM charges-after this month's payment, there is a balance of \$27.66. This will cover one more month. Will pay for 1 more month and then re-evaluate. Congregational Consulting Company-Judy has received communication from the representative and an estimated amount that could be recouped from payroll and FICA for 2020 is \$7,500. Criteria changed for 2021 and the estimate for 2021 is \$8,500. The fees to be paid would be \$1,500. Judy provided more information for the rep (who Augustana has worked with previously) today and he will be getting back to her with the exact figures that Augustana would receive, and the process will move forward. Technology equipment has been ordered and received, totaling \$8,724.27 and Judy will pay this out of available funds. This is not utilizing any of the \$5,000 that council approved in July to be used temporarily from Undesignated Memorials.

Deanna presented the Giving Report and was pleased to share that giving has increased.

Pastor Mandy-

Has been meeting with Confirmation students and parents. Pastor Mandy told the council that she is very strict but fun about Confirmation instruction. 10th graders who should have been confirmed will be given further instruction and confirmed in the spring of 2022. 9th graders will be confirmed in the fall of 2022. TLC is kicking off and Pastor Mandy has been working with Erica and others to prep for this. Chaplain Jim Renz, from Brandt Ridge met with Pastor Mandy and she will be doing the service there on September 19th. Lyla will attend with her, and then Pastor Mandy will be starting regular visits. She is also sending out notes to people who have expressed interest in Augustana.

AES Joint Council-

The COVID Protocol was the focus of the last meeting. 2 things have been added to original plan—**TLC will not meet if there are 60 known cases in the county, and the protocol for confirmation is to be decided.** Judy will order more masks. Mark will check with Jim about hand sanitizer supply on hand.

Education-

Fall Book Study-holding off for now. The committee is looking at forming a VBS team. The theme and decorations have already been determined. Family Faith mailings will continue with the SPARKS magazine. Teachers are lined up for TLC. They are Trish Anderson, Deb Anderson, Jill Beckius, Cindy Torkelson, Taylor Berg. Could still use substitute teachers. TLC starts on the 15th with Blessings of the Backpacks. The committee would like to name a "Director" for TLC. No action was taken at this time. Teresa and Kris from East will be coordinating snacks for TLC. Judy, Jeanne, and Jayne from Augustana worked on organizing the Supply room for TLC and did some painting. Cindy Torkelson supplied each room with Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and other supplies. Committee has started discussion on Christmas program.

Worship & Music-

COVID plans and TLC information was reviewed when the committee met. Technology Update- The work on the Technology Loft has been started. When the sound system must be disconnected in the process of this work, there will be certain things that will not be available on Sundays for a couple weeks. Temporary microphones will be used.

(continued)

Word in Season devotional magazine-Pastor Mandy requested that we order them to be taken out to shut-ins as she said the shut-ins really enjoy them. Kyla made a motion, seconded by Lisa to order copies for Pastor Mandy and Lyla to take out on visits. Judy will order from Augsburg Fortress.

Finance-no meeting

Property-

Work has started on Technology Loft.

Youth-no meeting

Old Business--

Sue Melheim-Mark has requested a “job description”—day to day duties. November 19th is her last day. Ad will be placed on website, Facebook, and in Plaindealer.

Jim Leopold has also submitted his Letter of Resignation, and he will be done November 1st. Ads will also be placed for his position. Mark will request a list of duties from Jim to update a job description. Salaries for both positions were discussed, and salary will be determined by the applicants experience with future discussion by council. It was suggested that special recognition be scheduled for a Sunday in November with a departing gift given to both. Kristi made the motion, seconded by Kyla. Motion approved. Watch for further details.

Beginning September 19th, coffee hour will be served at 10:00AM, following the 9:00AM service.

Stained Glass Window Update-John Coleman received the bid from the company that Augustana has been working with, to complete the 10 windows on the south side of the church. The total for those 10 windows will be \$42,978.00. After discussion, a motion was made by Lyle, seconded by Lisa to sign the contract and send it back immediately with the required down payment of \$14,612.52 (34%). Motion carried. Another 34% is required when the job is half done and the remainder upon completion. The company is backlogged with work so it could be months before the work is started. John will continue to stay in touch for a starting date.

The current plan for TLC meals will be pizza, with no food being prepared in the kitchen and servers/kitchen workers wearing masks and gloves.

New Business—

Pastor Mandy has found some very old church records in the closet in her office, and it was decided that they should be placed in a fireproof safe or cabinet. Deanna and Pastor Mandy will check into the current safe and if that is not feasible, a new fireproof storage unit will be ordered.

There was discussion regarding TLC and the difficulty in getting bus transportation for the students to get from school to church, due to a driver shortage. There will be approximately 32 students attending TLC. Derrick Miest is talking with Dave Lenz. Dean Swenstad will check to see if he could drive a TMT bus and Kyla will talk to Dave Ringen about a possible vehicle.

There was discussion regarding the use of the drinking fountains with TLC starting and it was decided to keep them turned off as most public places are not using their drinking fountains yet. There will be other water available for the students.

Communion will continue to be served, using the kits. New kits have been ordered that should be easier to open and use.

The meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted-Kristi Zellmann, Council Secretary

Next council meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 8:00PM. Kyla will have devotions.

*If you laugh a lot, when you get older your wrinkles
will be in all the right places. – Andrew Mason*

*Hope...is a zany, unpredictable dependence on a God who loves
to surprise us out of our socks! – Max Lucado*

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



October 2021 Newsletter

AES MINISTRIES WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

All at Augustana

2:00 pm TLC

4:15 pm 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation

5:30 pm Worship

6:00 pm Supper

6:30 pm 9th and 10th Grade Confirmation

October 6th: 5:30 – 7 pm All Confirmation Classes at East Sveadahl Bonfire

October 20th: No TLC or Confirmation

AES MINISTRIES

AUGUSTANA AND EAST SVEADAH LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Mandy France, Pastor

Lyla Klee, Visitation Deacon