

AES MINISTRIES

July 7, 2022

On December 14, 2016, Augustana Council approved the SAFE HAVEN model for the Protection of All People from Abuse. East approved the model June 10, 2021, and AES approved the policy on June 2, 2021. This protection policy is based on materials provided by the Southwestern MN Synod of the ELCA. These dates here are not typos: this has been a long process, somewhat delayed by the pandemic.

The Safe Haven committee members: Judy Berg, Jill Beckius, Lori Urevig and Becky Cobb have reviewed materials and are in collaboration with Secure Search, the company suggested by our Synod, to provide background checks for those paid staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children.

As stated in the document approved in 2016, “We believe that having a policy like this in place will equip our staff and volunteers to be better servants of children, youth and vulnerable adults and will protect them from situations that put them at risk of a misunderstanding or false accusation.” The document approved by Councils is on file in the church office if you would like to read it.

Background checks will commence next week and will be in place for Fall programming. Thank you in advance for your support in providing a “Safe Haven” for all God’s children in our congregational life.