

AES MINISTRIES
Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches
September 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Column

Dear Members of AES,

Greetings in Christ Jesus! I am beyond happy and eager to begin my ministry with you. I have felt warmly welcomed by this great community thus far and am excited to see the wonderful ways we will proclaim God's love together. I give thanks for the opportunity to be your pastor and share in ministry with you.

I plan to spend much of the month of September "learning the lay of the land" so to speak. I am hoping to learn more about the culture of each congregation and get to know each of you more. I am praying that COVID begins to subside, and I can begin to engage in more visitations where I can hear your stories and learn more about your dreams for AES. I am a dreamer when it comes to ministry, and I hope that you will join me in dreaming of ways that AES can be a bold witness of the Gospel.

My prayer as we enter into a new school year and new program year at AES is that we can embrace change and be open to the new and exciting ways that God is working in our midst. We believe in a living God which means that we believe that God is constantly up to something. I invite you to ask yourself what that something might be.

Here's to the future together,

Pastor Mandy France

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Mandy will be in her office on Thursdays from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, appointments are recommended due to possible commitments and visitations outside of the church building. Mondays will be Pastor's Sabbath, and the church office will continue to be closed.

"Ask the Pastor a Question" Box

Pastor Mandy has placed a box outside her office door and is inviting parishioners to drop questions into it! Once a week she will go live on the church Facebook page and answer one of the questions! This will be a fun way to get to know her better!

Elijah's Baptism

All are welcome to the baptism of Pastor Mandy and Pastor Kelly's son, Elijah Yash France, on Saturday, September 11th at 2 pm at South Side Park, 910 4th Ave. S., St. James (adjacent to the skating rink). Please bring a lawn chair. Cake will be served afterwards.

A Word on Holy Communion from Pastor Mandy

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” – Matthew 26:26-28

Dear church, I have been asked by a few to clarify what is required for Holy Communion. The short answer is – absolutely nothing. That is the beautiful mystery of it. When the disciples communed for the first time at the last supper, they had no idea what was happening. They simply drank and ate, and Jesus was mysteriously present within and around the elements. It was through the eating and drinking that they were forgiven of their sins, even though they did not comprehend what was happening. It was fully God doing the work for them.

As Lutherans, we confess that we cannot, by our own reasoning or strength believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel – enlightens us with the truth and sanctifies us in the one true faith. It is only by God’s grace that we can have faith. Therefore, as a Pastor, I believe in communing all who extend their hand. I don’t believe that it is up to me to say what the Spirit is doing within the heart or mind of an individual and believe that I can actually do more harm from withholding the Sacrament from someone.

I, however, always will honor and respect the decisions of parents surrounding the sacrament. I will always offer a blessing of God’s love and forgiveness to all those who wish to receive one during the time of communion. I ask that you please indicate to me that you or your child would like a blessing instead of the bread and wine/juice.

Once a year I will offer a communion class for all ages who wish to participate to further learn about communion. On Maundy Thursday you can then partake in a first communion. Again, I leave this decision solely up to each individual family and respect all decisions regarding the Sacrament. You are also welcome to commune prior to the class and then partake in the class and the tradition of the Maundy Thursday communion if you want to go that route. I am very open to whatever works best for you and your spiritual life.

The table is open to all. It is open to the broken, the lost, the found, the prisoners, the free, the old, and the young. If you have further questions about communion, please feel free to come and talk to me. Above all, know that it is Christ’s table and **YOU ARE WELCOME.**

Pastor Mandy France

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On Sunday, September 26th, there will be a special Harvest Worship Service at both congregations. Let’s gather and bless the crops for a bountiful and safe harvest!



AUGUSTANA - SEPTEMBER

TRANSITIONS: None to report

MEMORIALS

In memory of Lynda Overson
\$50.00 – Green Lake Ministries camperships

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please call the church office if you wish to provide altar flowers for a particular Sunday. Your name will be placed on the schedule.

September 5th Altar flowers are provided by
Leora & Darrell Ask.

COFFEE HOUR

September 5: Available
12: AES Service at East Sveadahl
19: Available
26: Bill & Kirsten Freitag

LECTORS

September 5: Terry Engel
12: Ruth Haler
19: Lisa Carlson
26: Kirsten Freitag

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sept. 5: Kristi Zellmann

ELECTRONIC GIVING

1. Electronically: visit church web site and on the "Secure Contributions" tab
2. Secure Contributions: visit the church website www.augustanachurch.org
3. Give+Text: from your phone, text number is 844-686-4439 (unique to Augustana)
4. Offering envelopes: through the mail or into the drop box

Questions: Contact Financial Secretary,
Deanna Hoffman 507-317-7724,
d designs@mchsi.com

AUGUSTANA - SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER CIRCLES

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday,
September 1st at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room
Dianne Missling, hostess
Kristi Zellmann, Bible study leader

Rebecca Circle meets on September 7th at 9:30 am
in the Fireside room.

Sewing Circle meets on September 21st at 9:00 am

COMMUNION SERVERS

September 5: Kristi Zellmann, Lyle Anderson
September 12: Jill Beckius, Mark Kulseth

Ushers

Terry Engel, Jim Leopold, Myron & Sally Engel,
Ruth Haler, Andrew Freitag,
Andre Freitag, Mark Kulseth.

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Please call the church office to sponsor our
Missionary. The cost is \$20.00 for a week.

September 5: Leora & Darrell Ask
12:
19:
26:

RADIO INFORMATION

KSUM 1370 AM

Sponsor a half hour broadcast for \$40.00.
East sponsors the 2nd Sunday of the month,
Augustana sponsors the 4th Sunday of the month,
5th Sundays are split between the churches.
To sponsor an Augustana broadcast, call 375-4792.
The September 26th radio broadcast from Augustana
is available for a sponsor.



EAST - SEPTEMBER

TRANSITIONS:

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS:

Needed through July	\$ 41,748.00
Received through July	41,659.68
Behind through July	- \$ 88.32
Received in July	\$ 5,818.11

Happy Birthday Happy Baptismal Day

- 3 Laura Sense 9-20
- 7 Charles Noren 11-21
- 8 Lyla Avila
Wilmar Tietz 9-24
- 9 Zane Eineke 3-4
- 13 Brogan Eineke 5-27
- 15 Michael Menssen 10-11
- 16 Steven Johnson 11-2
James Krogstad 12-10
Terry Thulien 10-10
- 18 Creig Noren 12-4
Logan Sizer 12-1
- 19 Tammy Stevens-Rathman 10-27
- 20 Riley Husby 11-24
- 21 Britta Torkelson 10-23
- 22 Nick Griffith 8-6
- 25 Keagan Jurgens 12-10
- 26 Londyn Anderson 2-23
- 30 Lowlla Lenz 11-3

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Lori Newberg, Evonne Moll

VISITING COMMITTEE

Sonja Coleman and Julene Hoffman

EAST - SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER RADIO BROADCASTS

September 5: First Lutheran, St. James
 12: East Sveadahl
 19: First Lutheran, St. James
 26: Augustana

LECTORS

September 5: Creig Noren
 12: Mike Menssen
 19: Sonja Coleman
 26: Evonne Moll

RADIO SPONSORS

September 12: Lori Urevig, Lisa Shellum
 October 10:
 October 31:
 November: 14:
 December 12:

We need sponsors for the above broadcasts!
 If you would like to be a sponsor, please
 contact Susan. Cost is \$40.00.

If you would like a copy or additional
 copies of the booklet handed out at
 the 150th Anniversary,
 please contact Susan
 by Sunday, September 12th.



HELP

The Church Council is working to improve the
 quality of our Facebook broadcasts. This involves
 purchasing new equipment. If you would like to
 donate to the cost of these purchases, the Council
 thanks you!

Donations should be made out to
 Facebook Equipment.

AES SEPTEMBER NEWS

REGULAR SUNDAY FALL SCHEDULE FOR AES MINISTRIES

September 19th continuing through February 2022:

9:00 am service at Augustana

10:45 am service at East Sveadahl

Communion Services: 1st Sunday of the month – East & Augustana

2nd Sunday of the month – Augustana

CHURCH PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 12TH AT EAST SVEADAHL

Annual AES Church Picnic will be at East Sveadahl following the **10:45 am Worship service**. There will be one Joint AES Communion Worship service at East Sveadahl only on Sunday, September 12th, with no worship service at Augustana that day.

TLC BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 15TH!

TLC parents and students - We will be starting TLC back up in person on Wednesday, September 15th after school at 3:15!! Along with that, there will also be 5:30pm worship and supper at 6:00pm!

Backpack blessing will also be happening at worship on the 15th.

Supper will be pizza for the 1st night! There will also be a sign-up sheet down in the social hall for volunteers for suppers going forward.

We are following school protocol this year so we are strongly recommending all students wear masks. Registration forms will be sent out in the mail very soon and more info!

We can't wait to see you back at TLC!

TLC Coordinator, Erica Garza

CHURCH SECRETARY POSITION

Sue Melheim will be retiring from the Augustana secretary position in November. If you or anyone you know might be interested in finding out more information, please contact Sue at the Church office 375-4792 or Mark Kulseth, Augustana Council President, at 507-381-3968.

BRIDAL SHOWER

There will be an Evening Luncheon Bridal Shower honoring Abby Frederickson and Matt Jurgens Wednesday, September 1, 2021, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at East Sveadahl Church. They are registered for gifts on Amazon.com. Enter their names and gift ideas will be listed. They are living in Arizona and traveling back by car so gift cards or smaller gifts would be appreciated.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The National Youth Gathering will be held July 22, 2022, through July 28, 2022, in Minneapolis at US Bank Stadium. The deadline for registration is November 22nd so the committee will be focusing on outreach to the youth. **There is a sign-up sheet on the office door for those interested in the national youth gathering. The EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION sign-up deadline is September 15th.**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Facebook: “Like” the Augustana/East Sveadahl Ministries Facebook page for pictures, updates, and inspiration

AES Ministries website: www.augustanachurch.org

EAST SVEAD AHL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear Members and Friends of East Sveadahl,

Congratulations and Blessing to you on your “150” years of ministry proclaiming Christ. Now, as you gather in the 151st year to give thanks to God for those years, we think of you and pray for the next 150 years. We trust that God’s blessings will be obvious to you then. I have great memories from my Interim pastorate in the St. James area and staying in the parsonage at East Sveadahl. There was no shortage of room for this one resident there. I am sorry that I can’t be there personally but will be praying for you from a distance continually asking for God’s guidance for you all.

Love in Christ, David S. Wall

Dear Members and Friends of East Sveadahl,

I’m sorry I can’t be with you in person. A new hip surgery this month prevents me from travel. First, a story to tell. On a Saturday morning when I was six years old, I was invited to a pancake breakfast at my Grandmother Aleida Olson’s home on the farm. After piling up a stack of Swedish pancakes on my plate, Aleida sat down with me at the kitchen table. She engaged me in a two-way conversation about how God provides for life. Many pancakes later, I was a 7th grader. Grandma Aleida was now exploring the creed and Luther’s catechism on how God the Creator, God’s Son, God’s Spirit gives us the means for life. She was instructing me in the faith. Each Saturday I left with my stomach full of pancakes, heart full of the Bread of Life from God.

I am part of that generation born in 1941 and baptized at East Sveadahl Church. The nation was struggling with the great world-wide economic depression which set the stage for a second world war. Our uncles went away to fight. It was a disturbance to our lives. In this context the people of East Sveadahl nurtured my generation. Sunday school teachers like Ruth Noren, Hildur Chalin, and Ruth Beck fed us the Bread of Life from God. As teenagers we sat with Ruth Torkelson and Nels Olson in the bell tower room engaging in loud dialogue about Jesus being our Bread of Life. Pastor Wenzel Bloom, a Harvard graduate, drew us deeper into the mystery of God’s presence with us. We traveled with our classmates from Augustana Lutheran Church to Minneapolis to catch a train to Chicago for the National Youth Gathering. Sitting with thousands of young people, we heard music and speakers expand our experience of being fed by God’s Spirit. East Sveadahl, a country church on the prairie north of St. James, fed my generation with rich worship and music surrounded by stained glass windows with picture stories of faith and Christ at the altar looking down at us kneeling for the Lord’s Supper. Early morning on Christmas Day the services with flaming torches at the bottom of the church steps greeted us as we entered the bright sanctuary with the organ playing and worship and hymns rejoicing that God entered our world as the baby Jesus called Emanuel, God with us. In all this, we were fed the true Bread that gives life in the midst of the uncertainty around us. This ministry and more at East Sveadahl Lutheran Church called me to become a Lutheran pastor offering the Bread of Life to others.

Today let us give thanks for those who fed us who now rest from their witness and service to us, whose graves lay next to our church. The Risen Jesus Christ is in our midst with a promise for us today. “I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes (trusts) in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35 In the face of today’s challenges, let us cling in faith to this word from God for the days ahead.

Retired Pastor Douglas K. Olson

WEEKLY BULLETINS

Sunday bulletins will be posted weekly on the AES Ministries website home page and no longer sent out as emails. Our website address is www.augustanachurg.org

PASTOR 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. Mandy at the church office 375-4792 or cell 651-800-6692 and Visitation Deacon Lyla Klee at 507-439-6940 and her cell 507-227-9250. Pastor Mandy can also be reached by email at the church aesministriespastor@gmail.com.

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.

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 our students going off to school this fall. Please send their address! Thank you.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING

The Weekly Prayer Meeting is Monday morning at 10:00 am via Zoom. Type in the link to join (or click on the link on the website)

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



THANK YOU'S

Dear Friends at Augustana Lutheran Church – On behalf of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) and those we serve, thank you for your recent gift of \$200.00.....Your support affirms our shared vision that all people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives.

With deep gratitude, Pastor Julie Wright-Director of Church Partnerships and Volunteerism

The members at East Sveadahl wish to thank everyone for remembering us as we recognized our 150th Anniversary on Sunday, August 8. The flowers, cards, letters, and donations were very special. We at East Sveadahl feel very blessed to have had 150 years of praising God. Psalm 136:1 "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." The East Council

To Our Augustana Sister Family – Thank you for remembering us with flowers for our 150th Anniversary. They were beautiful. We at East Sveadahl feel very blessed to have 150 years of praising God.
East Sveadahl Council and Congregation

FINANCIAL FACTS ~ AUGUSTANA

June & July 2021 Summary

Here is the Financial Summary for this past 2 months 2021

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Total Giving	\$ 9,044.49	\$ 68,086.57	
Total Expenses – Paid from	- \$ 12,985.89	- \$ 68,583.35	
General Fund	- \$ 3,938.54	- \$ 496.78	
	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Total Giving	\$ 11,847.36	\$ 79,933.83	
Total Expenses – Paid from	\$ 6,567.17	\$ 75,150.52	
General Fund	+ \$ 5,280.19	+ \$ 4,783.31	

These last 2 months have been a study in opposites! We fell behind in June but made up the difference in July. The biggest reason for the contrast is we didn't pay a Pastors' salary or Pension & Insurance in July. You can also see a significant increase in the Total Giving from June to July – Thank You this is very encouraging. The increased expenses in pulpit supply and additional mileage are factored into the Total Expenses so our bottom line is in the black at this time.

I would like to remind you of other opportunities to share your financial gifts that are not part of the General Fund. Your gifts to Benevolence "Special Gifts" are sent to the SWMN Synod to aid with their support and missions. These are over and above the budgeted support from our congregation. Likewise, gifts to World Hunger and our Missionary (Elisabeth Johnson) are forwarded to our synod. We have a "Covenant" or agreement to pay support for our Missionary of \$750.00 per year. This amount divided by 52 weeks equals less than \$15 per week. There is a poster in the Narthex to sign up to help support this outreach. And lastly, any gifts designated for Disaster Relief are sent to the synod for them to distribute through the ELCA Disaster Relief Program.

One last item, I would appreciate knowing if you find these "Financial Facts" summaries helpful each month and/or if there is any other information you would like me to include.

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Thulien – Treasurer

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREEN LAKE'S 37TH QUILT AUCTION – 2021

Augustana sewing circle had been working on a quilt for about 2 years. It first had to be hand embroidered. Jo Howe volunteered for the task and even wrote a "story" about the making of the quilt. She called it a "God Thing". Then it was added to so it became a queen size. It was brought to Sue Ekstedt who machine quilted it and then we finished it off with a binding. Our campers brought it to Green Lake when they left for camp. On July 24th, the auction was held, and our quilt was purchased for \$400 which goes directly to the camp. We heard from the people that bought the quilt. They were very happy with it. Good to know it went to a good home! There were 184 quilts at the auction bringing in an average of \$284 per quilt. A few quilts sold for more than \$1,000, but most brought much less. We are pleased to have been a part of the auction that brought in a total of more than \$85,000 this year! Thanks to all who helped make this donation to Green Lake Bible camp.

Jeanne Miest

GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Fall Frenzy Youth Retreat October 9, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Grades 2-6 Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp ~ Fee \$25; **Confirmation Retreat** October 1, 6:30 PM - October 2, 4:30 PM Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp ~ Fee: \$75; **Questions?** Contact GLLM office at 320-796-2181 or by emailing Steph at retreat@gllm.org

WATONWAN COUNTY FOOD SHELF

There will Produce Distributions at Memorial Park on September 9th & 23rd from 5-7 pm. Drive-up pickup only. Please volunteer if you are able so that the distributions can take place!

CHRISTMAS KETTLE COORDINATOR – SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is looking for a Christmas Kettle Coordinator for Watonwan County. This is a seasonal/volunteer position. If you are interested, please pick up a job description at the Church office or contact Kim Schwich at 507-326-5017 or email her at kim.schwich@usc.salvationarmy.org.



AES MINISTRIES JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES – August 4, 2021

The AES Ministries Joint Council met on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm at Augustana. Those present: Teresa Andrews, Leora Ask, Janet Bloomquist, Terry Engel, Wayne Jurgens, Mark Kulseth, Becky Cobb (via phone), Susan Anderson, and Pr. Mandy. Not present: Mike Messen

Wayne called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the July meeting were read. A motion was made (Terry), seconded (Mark), and carried to approve the minutes as read.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be an AES meal served in the Augustana basement after Pr. Mandy's installation on Sunday, August 15th. Mark and Lynn Watson are preparing the meal (scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans, fruit, sherbet cups and beverages); the cost will be split between the two churches. To-go boxes will be available for those who choose not to stay. Due to the increasing number of COVID cases, these plans might be subject to change.

Worship times will switch the second Sunday of September. Augustana will worship at 9:00 am; East at 10:30 am.

The Annual AES Picnic will be held Sunday, September 12th following the worship service at East. Augustana will provide: sandwiches (hamburgers), beans, drinks, floats.

East will provide: chips, salads, condiments, paper products. It was decided not to have any entertainment. Mark will get the tent.

There are no official financial totals from the Relay for Life. The event was well received, but the heat and humidity made it hard for many to attend.

Pr. Mandy will be receiving a credit card for her to use to purchase her church supplies.

The church secretaries asked permission to end sending out the individual church bulletins via email after the August 15th bulletin. After the 15th, both bulletins will be posted on our website. The bulletins have been posted there for quite some time. When important information needs to be shared, they will use THE UPDATE that is sent via email to those with email addresses.

(AES minutes-cont.)

Discussion was held on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 12th. A number of ideas were presented – sharing the left-over picnic food with some place; contributing to the Backpack program; WELCA cards to our veterans; gathering school supplies for the elementary and personal care products for the high school. We will need more information. First Lutheran asked if AES would be interested in joining them on projects for that day. We will talk about this at the September meeting.

The Youth Committee has put in motion plans for our youth to attend the Youth Gathering in 2022 in Minneapolis. The Education Committee will begin working on TLC plans for the coming year.

Pr. Mandy:

She presented some concerns / questions of the Board.

- ~ How to deal with the length of services and time between services was discussed. It was agreed that if the service ran longer, the next church would just have to wait until the pastor arrived. The installation service on the 15th will be a case in point. The service will be longer than a regular service.
- ~ Her children will be attending church with her. Elijah may need to stay close to her during the worship service until he becomes more comfortable in the churches. She was told this shouldn't be a concern.
- ~ She would like to be added as an administrator on the Facebook page. She will be communicating via Facebook at times.
- ~ They are working on plans to baptize Elijah. Pastor Matt Seegert of First Lutheran will be the officiating minister, and their plan is to hold the ceremony at an outdoor location on Saturday, September 11th. If the weather doesn't cooperate, they might have to use a church basement.

The next meeting will be September 2, 2021, at 7:00 pm at Augustana. The meeting was changed to Thursday.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson, Secretary



EAST SVEADAHN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – August 12, 2021

The East Sveadahh Church Council met on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Those present: Tom Anderson, Sonja Coleman, Erma Griffith, Wayne Jurgens, Evonne Moll, Lori Urevig, Susan Anderson, and Pr. Mandy.

Tom welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Pr. Mandy led us in prayer.

The July 2021 Secretary's Report was approved as read.

Sonja presented the Financial Secretary's report, and Evonne presented the Treasurer's Report.

Motion by Erma, seconded by Wayne, and passed to accept the reports as given.

Tom presented the outstanding bills. Motion by Lori, seconded by Wayne, and passed to approve the paying of these bills.

AES Council report was presented by Wayne.

The Annual Picnic will be held September 12th at East. Augustana will provide sandwiches (hamburgers), beans, drinks, floats. East will provide chips, salads, condiments, paper products. The complete report can be read in this newsletter

Pr. Mandy's Report:

- TLC is back. Erica and Pr. Mandy are working to finalize the schedule.

There are plenty of snacks for right now. The meal after TLC is also back. A sign-up sheet for serving is being set up.

(East minutes – continued)

Motion by Wayne, seconded by Lori, and passed to approve the following: TLC will follow the school guidelines in regard to wearing masks. At this time, the school is highly recommending that students and staff wear masks.

- She will be officiating at the Frederickson-Jurgens wedding September 4th.
- On Saturday, September 11th, Elijah will be baptized in Memorial Park. AES members are invited to attend.
- She and Lyla will be making home visits next week. She will begin contacting via a phone call all AES members to introduce herself.

Susan’s report:

She read a thank-you for the genealogy work she had done, and a letter celebrating our 150th anniversary from Pr. David Wall

OLD BUSINESS: The 150th anniversary was well received.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tom and Wayne will visit with our new neighbors about parking on the east side of the road.
- The order of worship for September will continue with “Come, Let Us Worship God.”
- The Contingency Fund has sufficient funds at this time.
- The August Noisy offering will be given to the American Cancer Society.
- Motion by Wayne, seconded by Erma, and passed to change the second service worship time to 10:45 am beginning September 12th.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

The next Church Council meeting is Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson, Secretary Pro-Temp



AUGUSTANA CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - August 11, 2021

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

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

Reports:

Motion by Lynn and seconded by Kyla to approve last month’s minutes as written. Motion approved.

Judy presented the Treasurer’s report. Motion made by Lynn and seconded by Terry to approve the report. Motion approved. Judy went through the report in detail to help Pastor Mandy and others to understand what all the line items are and how the funds are used. Judy also shared information about the Congregational Consulting Company. There is now an option for a credit paid to congregations, regarding taxes paid for employees other than the pastor, that the church has paid. The company figures what our credit might be and then they will notify the church as to what the amount would be for the credit and then council will make the decision as to whether to apply for the funds or not.

Deanna presented the Giving Report. Deanna has ordered the offering envelopes that will be distributed to members later this year.

(Augustana minutes – continued)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mandy attends Text Studies on Tuesdays. Tuesday, August 17th, will be Pastor Mandy's first day in the church office. Pastor Mandy reported that she met with Erica Garcia to discuss plans for TLC. After discussion regarding use of masks for TLC, there was a motion made by Kristi, seconded by Lynn to recommend the use of masks for students and staff attending TLC. Motion carried. Further discussion will continue on this topic. Pastor Mandy reported that they will be baptizing Elijah on Saturday, September 11th, at Memorial Park with Pastor Matt from First Lutheran, conducting the baptism. The congregation is invited to attend if they wish.

AES Joint Council: Church picnic will be Sunday, September 12th, at East Sveadahl following worship. Mark plans to set up the tent. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be grilled by Mark and Lynn. Other food and beverages will be provided. The AES Council made the decision to discontinue the emails that were being sent regularly with Office updates and the Sunday bulletins. The information will be available on the AES website, but individuals will no longer receive emails as this was a lot of extra work for the church secretaries.

Committee Reports

Education-No report. The committee is meeting next week

Worship and Music/Evangelism and Social Ministry-Name tags will be used for services to help Pastor Mandy get to know members. "Come Let Us Worship Him" will continue to be used through September. New technology equipment has been ordered and a couple items have already arrived. A Welcome "feather" flag that had been ordered for the front church lawn was shared and will be placed where it is visible from both Armstrong and Weston. There was discussion regarding the delivery of a Welcome Basket to new community members as a way of inviting them to visit Augustana. This will be followed up on.

Finance-No report

Property/Cemetery-Screens need to be replaced on some windows in the back of church. The work to build the Technology Loft will hopefully be started soon. There are a few raised areas on the sidewalks that will be repaired. Andy requested and was given permission to replace the old cornerstone.

Youth Ministries-No report

Old Business

Church Secretary Position-an ad will be placed to seek a replacement for Sue Melheim, who will be retiring in November.

Coffee Hour-will continue with just coffee and cookies until September.

Stained Glass Windows-no progress is being made with the current company that John has been working with. John will follow up with a company in Winona—Associated Crafts.

Communion/Offering/Ushering-the decision was made that offering plates will remain at the entrances to the sanctuary, but it will be brought forth during the service. Future communion will be served in a continuous fashion.

New Business

Pastor Mandy-Installation-Synod Pastor, Dee Peterson, will be here August 15th for installation.

Communion will be served, and a meal will follow worship for all AES members in the Social Hall.

TLC Meals-Pizza will be ordered for the first TLC meal on September 15th. There will be a sign up for meals after that.

God's Work, Our Hands-School supplies will be collected for our project as that Sunday is the picnic at East and members won't be able to participate in projects that day.

Communion Servers-Sept. 5th will be Kristi and Lyle. Sept. 12th will be Jill and Mark.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:50PM.

Next Council meeting is September 8th at 7PM, and Paul will have devotions.

Respectfully Submitted-Kristi Zellmann, Council Secretary

AES TLC Education Committee Meeting – August 17, 2021

- Pastor Mandy began our meeting with an uplifting prayer.

Agenda -

Old Business:

- We have over \$5,000 in the Education Budget. The money this year will go toward Bibles, Curriculum and other materials.
- Fall Book Study will be moved further ahead. The Adult Prayer Session continues on Mondays at 10:00 am by ZOOM.
- We'd like to give a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers that helped with VBS. It was a great success! The Education Committee would like to start a VBS team that could meet once a month to get next year's VBS going. Please let Erica or Cindy know if you are interested in helping.
- There will be a parent meeting coming up. Watch for information.
- Green Lake Bible Camp- Great times for our 22 kids!! A HUGE thank you to AES for supporting our campers!!!!
- Discussion was held about Bibles. We will be ordering more.

New Business:

- Discussions were held about organizing our jobs, TLC Curriculum called Dig-In and the need for 3 teachers; 1st grade, 4th and combination 5th and 6th. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with TLC!! We need you!! The teaching lesson will only be 1/2 hour.
- Organizing for the Wednesday suppers will start with Lyn Watson and Mark Kulseth. There will be a sign up chart at Augustana and then the chart will move to East Sveadahl for continued sign-up.
- A Christmas program was discussed. We have volunteers for music and costumes, but we need volunteers for directing and working on the set.
- There will be organizing by multiple volunteers for the classrooms and supply rooms in the next 2 weeks.
- There was discussion about our TLC Facebook page. How can we reach out to more people? We need more activity.
- Pastor Mandy will be working with the confirmation students and the mentor program.

Next meeting (?)

We need another meeting before TLC begins. TLC is beginning on September 15th.

Sincerely, Cindy Torkelson Education Committee Chairperson



*Wherever God takes you – go;
Whichever the task – do it;
Wherever the challenge – accept it;
Whenever the call – answer it;
Whichever the lesson – learn it;
However dark the path – follow it;
Because wherever God takes you,
It is worth it.*