

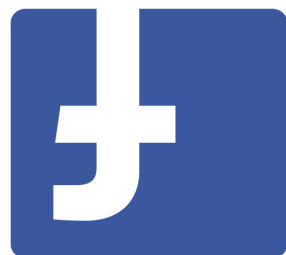


East Side Lutheran Church
1300 East 10th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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August 2026



8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sundays

5:30 pm

Saturdays

WORSHIP SERVICES



The Voice

Welcoming All
Serving Others
Growing in Faith

Volume 30 Issue 8

of East Side Lutheran Church

August 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



The Importance of Volunteerism at East Side Lutheran Church

Volunteerism is the heart of a thriving church community, and at East Side Lutheran Church, it reflects the values of faith, compassion, and service. Every act of volunteering, whether large or small, helps strengthen the congregation while extending God's love to those within the church and throughout the community.

Volunteers play a vital role in nearly every aspect of church life. They welcome visitors with warm smiles, teach children and youth, sing in the choir, assist with worship services, prepare meals, organize special events, and care for the church grounds. Behind the scenes, countless individuals dedicate their time and talents to ensure that ministries run smoothly and that everyone who walks through the church doors feels welcomed and valued.

Volunteerism is more than simply completing tasks; it is an opportunity to live out one's faith through action. The Bible reminds believers to serve one another with love and to use the gifts God has given them for the benefit of others. By volunteering, members of East Side Lutheran Church demonstrate Christ's example of selfless service, creating a culture of kindness, generosity, and mutual support.

Serving together also builds stronger relationships within the congregation. Volunteers work side by side, forming friendships, encouraging one another, and developing a deeper sense of belonging. These shared experiences foster unity across generations as children, youth, adults, and seniors collaborate to support the church's mission. The result is a congregation that grows stronger spiritually and socially.

The impact of volunteerism reaches far beyond the church walls. Community outreach projects, food drives, mission efforts, and acts of compassion allow East Side Lutheran Church to make a meaningful difference in the lives of neighbors facing challenges. Through these ministries, volunteers become the hands and feet of Christ, offering hope, comfort, and practical assistance to those in need.

Every member has unique gifts to share. Whether someone can volunteer weekly, monthly, or occasionally, every contribution matters. No act of service is too small, and every effort helps fulfill the church's mission of sharing God's love with the world.

As East Side Lutheran Church continues to grow and serve, volunteerism remains an essential part of its ministry. By giving generously of their time, talents, and hearts, volunteers help create a welcoming church family that reflects Christ's love in action. Their commitment inspires others to serve, ensuring that the church remains a place of faith, fellowship, and hope for generations to come.



The Voice

This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
It can also be downloaded from our website.

East Side Lutheran Church

1300 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597 www.eastsidelc.org

Staff

Rev. Layne Nelson Lead Pastor

Rev. Ray Heidenson Visitation Pastor

Wayne Wosje Business Manager

Gayle Lee Parish Secretary

Sue Hart Volunteer Coordinator

Tom Call Security

Nona Bixler. Newsletter

Jackie Swiden....Sunday School Superintendent

Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith Organist

Dr. Tyler Thress..... Director of Music

Katrina Mitchell. Accompanist

Worship Services

Saturdays

5:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 am 10:00 am

Radio Broadcast: KXRB 1140 AM or 100.1 FM

Sundays, 11:00 am

Online: Facebook and YouTube

Sundays, 8:00 am

Radio Sponsorships



11:00am on KXRB
Radio
(1140 AM or 100.1
FM)

Sponsorships
\$255/Sunday

August 9—In honor of Nancy Renner's 90th
Birthday given by Rose Ebdrup

August 16—In memory of ReJeanne Lehron
(niece) given by Barbara Anderson

August 30—In memory of Alice Kruse given
by her daughters Nancy, Sandra and Kim



Online Sponsorships

ESL Facebook and
YouTube

Sponsorships
\$50/Sunday!

August 9—In honor of Nancy Renner's 90th
Birthday

August 16—In honor of Reggie & Shelly
Huber's 50th Wedding Anniversary—Given by
Reggie & Shelly



Come Celebrate 90 Years

On August 8th there will be an open house in
the Fellowship Hall from 2-4pm in celebration
of Nancy Renner's 90 years young Birthday.
Everyone is invited to come and celebrate this
milestone with Nancy.



The following have been Honored this month to
the glory of God through gifts given in their
memory or honor to the work and ministry
of East Side Lutheran.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Memory of

Jon Skogen given by

- Brent & Jennie McCown

Dale Carman given by

- Marilyn Dammer

- Kary Dammer

- Charles & Kayleen Graff

- Daniel & Barbara Hartmann

- Brian & Marylee Peters

- Reggie & Shelly Huber

- Rose Carman and Family & Friends

Michael Lorang given by

- Brent & Jennie McCown

Barb Hines given by

- Marv & Laurie McKnelly

- Mary Lee

Edna Colwill given by

- Reggie & Shelly Huber

(Gifts received as of July 27th)

A Note of Thanks from Thomas and Kay Krause

Kay and I would like to thank Pastor Layne, the Church Council and all the Members at East Side Lutheran who made our time so special at the church. We would especially like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and well wishes at our last official Sunday, June 28th. Facebook comments were overwhelming to us both.

The faithful participation of the Adult Choir, Celebration Ringers and King's Choir (and their parents) gave me the opportunity to use their talents to their fullest. Thank you to the members for their faithful participation.

You have allowed me to try many different ideas, some of which I had never done. Not only did you accept the Christmas "Lessons and Carols" service format, you experience an Easter Sunday "Lessons and Carols" service that I had never tried previously. One service that I enjoyed the most was Palm Sunday, when the entire congregation enacted the triumphal entry with Palms while the Sunday School children brought in expressions of a modern parade with balloons. The children sang so much more enthusiastically watching the adults participate.



Aug 8	Youth Lock-In 8:00pm-7:30am
Aug 25	Beer & Theology—Remedy Brewing Company 7pm
Aug 29	Block Party
Sept. 6	Lifelight
Sept. 9	Confirmation resumes—7pm
Sept. 9	Bells & Adult Choir Resumes
Sept. 10-12	Rummage Sale
Sept. 13	Rally Sunday
Sept. 13	Kings Choir Begins
Sept. 29	Beer & Theology—Remedy Brewing Company 7pm
Oct 4	"Church on the Bus" Vikings vs Dolphins
Oct 27	Beer & Theology—Remedy Brewing Company 7pm
Oct. 31	Trunk or Treat—tentative

YOUTH NEWS — GWEN OAKLAND



Highlights from Summer Activities

I had a great time at camp with the confirmation students in June! Said Gwen Oakland “We did some team building activities, went on a pontoon ride, archery, and boating.” Many took advantage of learning to paddle board, kayak, canoe, and use a pedal boat. It was a great week connecting with old and new friends all while praising God for all of the blessing we have in our lives.

God Is Good all the time! All the time God is Good!
I’m looking forward to going again next year!



Family Vacation Family Bible School was held on July 7th. This was a first for us at East Side and we were happy to have around 60 individuals attend the event. We started the evening with a campfire supper of hot dogs, chips, and drinks and listened to a lesson from Pastor Layne on how **We Are Chosen**. This was paired with an activity of making a prayer quilt, which is currently displayed on the wall in the Narthex. The evening concluded outside to singing campfire songs and making smores. Thank you to the Evangelism committee for taking care of the fire and smores.

Don’t Miss Our On Another Fun Memorable Summer Activity

We will be having a youth lock-in on Saturday, August 8th at 8pm until Sunday, August 9th 7:30am. This is for incoming 6th-12th graders. You won’t want to miss this as we have a lot of fun

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



We all hate to see summer come to a close and it has been a fun summer as you can see from the article above. It is time for us now to prepare for Rally Sunday which will be held on Sunday, September 13th. Children, students of all ages, teachers and anyone who would like to bring their backpack to church should do so for the blessing of the backpacks. This will also be the first day of Sunday School at East Side Lutheran. We have a lot of fun things planned not only for the kiddos but also the congregation as a whole. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting Sunday morning!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - EVIE PRUDEN

Head Usher Evie Pruden has been a member at East Side since 2015. Prior to that she lived in St. Paul where she was raised with five sisters and one brother. Evie’s dream was to become a missionary and promote Christianity around the world. Well that was until she met the love of her life Dave and they were married in 1969. Together they raised five children who have given her 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Evie stated “we had a wonderful life together with so many blessings”. For seven years Evie was a Title One teacher in Minnesota followed by eighteen years in the retail business.

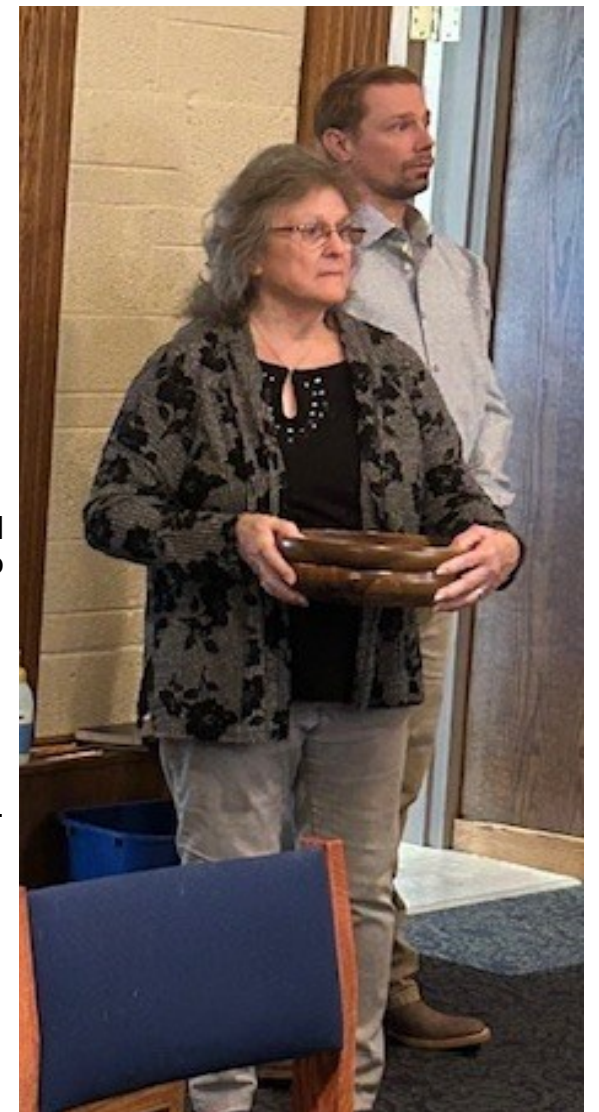
Her and her husband moved to Sioux Falls to be closer to one of their children and their family and her sister Linda. For many years Evie was the caregiver for her mother who suffered from Alzheimer’s that was until her husband suffered a number of mini strokes. Evie recalls I was his “voice and caregiver” for a number of years until his passing in 2013.

Her sister Linda Flemming got her started attending church at East Side and also talked her into volunteering at the church. Evie remembers I started with serving communion and greeting at the entrances of the church. I remember my sister telling me “you don’t have to visit with everyone just greet them and let them be on there way.” But that isn’t who I am, said Evie. I like meeting people and get to know them. I wanted them to feel a connection with the church and feel as welcomed as I did when I first came. Linda was diagnosed with Dementia and you guessed it Evie became her caregiver until her death in 2022.

Today Evie has worn many hats at East Side Lutheran. For many years she made bandages that were sent all over the world, she belongs to WELCA, serves in the kitchen at events, bakes cakes when needed, attends bible study and St. Arbucks, helps out with the Wednesday night meals, lectors, serves communion, and helps put together the newsletter and anything else she is asked to do. This past year she was asked to be the head usher which of course she said yes too. At first it was hard because I would call people to ask them to usher and they would decline. Then I started to ask people face to face prior to church and I most always got a “I can do that”. Now people come up to her and ask if she needs help with ushering. It’s a great way to get to know the people in our congregation.

Today you will find Evie at both the 8:00 and 10:00 services ushering, lecturing or helping with communion. People say “You live at church” which she replies “It’s not all bad”. Evie shared I love people and I have never felt at home as much as I do and have when I am at church with my church family.

Well Evie, your dream of becoming a missionary, this writer would say, has come true. You may not travel the world but you share love and peace to all of us at East Side Lutheran. Thank you!



East Side Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2026

Present: Ray Schut, Brian Ensberg, Janelle Songstad, Brenda Schut, Kimberly Travers, Danielle Champa, Carla Midden, Pastor Layne Nelson. **Guest:** Dr. Tyler Thress

Excused Absence: Gwen Oakland, Todd Brower

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Brian Ensberg moved to accept the agenda without changes. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Nelson shared “Christ in our Home” booklets for July, August, September 2026 with the Council. He read a passage from the booklet with prayer. He introduced Dr. Tyler Thress to the Council and welcomed him to East Side Lutheran Church. Dr. Thress spent a few minutes introducing himself and his background.

Secretary's Report: Carla Midden moved to accept the May 17, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented. Janelle Songstad seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nelson reported there have been 8 funerals and 3 weddings since June 1, 2026. There was a baptism on July 3, 2026. East Side bid Farewell and Godspeed to Tom and Kay Krause June 28th. Paul and Sandy did a great job with music. THANK YOU all in your help in planning. Tyler Thress begins as Director of Music on July 9th. He will have a chance to touch base with Tom on that day for specifics. Pastor Nelson will be on sabbatical July 15th - August 19th. Pastor Marlin will lead Men's and Women's Bible studies during that time. Pastor Ray will be checking in on the office and staff once a week during that time. East Side has switched to a different IT company called Work Place, and a new phone system in place. Thank you to Wayne Wosje for coordinating both of these events. Summer worship numbers have dropped (this is typical), but only on Sunday mornings. The Saturday service has been averaging 47 people through May and June, which has been consistent since February 2026 (except on 4th of July weekend). The location of Beer and Theology is moving from Monk's to Remedy Brewing Company, starting in July.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported that the budget is in good shape, primarily through expense control. The checking account balance is over \$50,000. Even though the net position is in deficit, a positive checking account balance is possible due to the strong year-end position for the last two years. It was not necessary to take the budgeted \$25,000 endowment distribution in June. The month of distribution was changed to November. In November, ESLC will take the annual distribution of \$32,300. The Capital Savings Money Market balance is \$37,054. The Endowment balance is \$849,367. The mortgage balance is \$588,194. Brenda Schut motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Danielle Champa seconded. Motion carried.

Generative Conversation

Pastor Layne posed the question to the Council: “Where do we want to be as a congregation one year from now in July 2027?” Thoughts shared included being debt free, growing the music program, expanding youth outreach, and increasing volunteer participation.

New Business

Special Appeal Discussion:

The Council was asked by the Consultant to discuss where any extra monies might go if the appeal is exceeded. By consensus, the Council agreed to consider building improvements if extra money becomes available.

LifeLight Discussion – It will occur on Labor Day weekend. Brenda Schut showed the freebies to be distributed including bookmarks, bracelets, candy, and a trifold about ESLC. The ESLC parking lot will be blocked off to raise money for the youth programs. Parking will be \$5.00, and volunteers will be needed.

Newsletter discussion - paper mail vs. email only

The Council discussed the pros and cons of both approaches. There was concern that doing email could result in less readership. Both methods will be maintained.

Continue on page 5

TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Year-to-date through June (January 1 – June 30), our budget remains in a solid position, thanks in large part to expense management. At first glance, it may seem a little confusing that we can show a net deficit of (\$15,244), be \$24,069 ahead of budget, and still have \$50,000 in cash available to pay our bills.

Our Church budget reflects historical giving and expense patterns, which means expenses typically exceed revenue during the first 10 months of the year. Strong fall giving helps close that gap. For the second year in a row, faithful stewardship, generous giving, and expense management allowed us to balance the budget and finish the year with positive net income. That cumulative net income from the past two years has helped carry us through the lean winter months with positive cash flow. Finishing each year fiscally strong is important, and we are grateful for every gift, large or small, that helps sustain our Church's mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Capital Savings money market balance is \$37,054. These funds are available for special programs and building projects. Our Endowment balance is \$849,367. This year's annual Endowment distribution of \$32,300 will be taken in November to support our Church mission. Our mortgage balance is \$588,194.

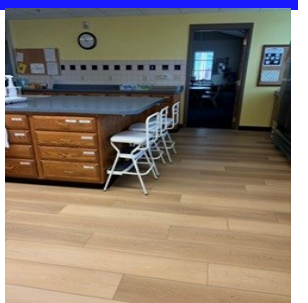
The June 30, 2026, year-to-date budget summary report is posted on the bulletin board. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT—TODD BROWER



A big thank you to Nita and Roger Lien and Dee Hohn for brightening up the kitchen with a new coat of paint on the walls. New floor has also been laid in the kitchen and two new stoves have been installed. Thank you to the late Alice Kruse for the donation which helped to add these updates to the kitchen.

Also, a thank you to all those involved in helping to coordinate and make the tough decision on colors, styles and brands. It takes a village.



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC—TYLER THRESS



Meet our new Director of Music

Tyler is originally from Southeastern Ohio. Dr. Tyler Thress joined the faculty of Mount Marty University in 2023, after completing a PhD in Interdisciplinary Arts at Ohio University. He lives in Yankton with his fiancée Tashlynn, their cats Winnie and Ghost Pepper, and five chickens. He also works as a music director for St Dymas of South Dakota, plays bodhran in the Irish band Reel Shenanigans, and is a member of the Prairie Waves Ukulele Club.

If you haven't had a chance to introduce yourself to him please do so.

Bell and Choir practice will be starting on September 9th. Bells at 5:30 and Choir at 7:00. Kings Choir (children's choir) will resume September 13th at 9:15. Anyone interested is welcome to join!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	3	4 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	5 9:00 am CHARIS Board Meeting	6 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Food to You Distribution	7	8 5:30 pm Worship
9 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	10 9:00 am Quilters	11 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	12	13 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	14	15 5:30 pm Worship
16 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	17	18 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	19	20 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	21	22 5:30 pm Worship
23 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 11:15 Church Council Meeting 30 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	24 31 9:00 am Quilters	25 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 7:00 pm Beer & Theology	26	27 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	28	29 5:30 pm Worship

Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Stewardship Task Force: Janelle Songstad reported the Task Force is continuing to discuss the general/mortgage appeals.

Education: Gwen Oakland reported that a great time was had at camp with the confirmation students in June! There were team building activities, a pontoon ride, archery and boating. Activity options included paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, and using a pedal boat. Family VBS occurred on July 7, 2026 with about 60 people. The campfire supper consisted of hot dogs, chips, and a drink. The lesson was about how We Are Chosen. This was paired with an activity to make a prayer quilt, which is displayed on the wall in the Narthex. Then it was outside to sing campfire songs and make smores. Thank you to the Evangelism Committee for taking care of the fire and smores. A youth lock-in will be held on Saturday, August 8th-9th from 8pm-7:30am for incoming 6th-12th graders.

Outreach: Danielle Champa reported the Mobile Food Pantry was hosted by ESLC June 4th and July 2nd. There were several East Side volunteers who helped. Thank you! Twelve greeting cards, which included camping themed water bottle stickers, were sent to NeSoDak from the Church Council. Ten campers, Gwen and Pastor Layne received them. Cheryl Lundeen, with Laundry with Love, contacted us. East Side is signed-up to serve May 11, 2027, from 3 - 7 PM. Primary responsibilities are to provide volunteers to help with various jobs and to provide a meal to serve between 175-200 people. A large box of chapter books was donated to the Little Free Library. We will put few out at a time. There are many good titles for youth & adults.

Evangelism: Brenda Schut reported the Evangelism Committee joined Family VBS and manned the Smore station. 70 people attended the Faith and Family Day in June at the Canaries Baseball game. The Committee has started preparations for LifeLight and will hand out "trinkets" at the event. The Committee will coordinate with the Enberg's on the tent and photos for the setup, thanks in advance Brian and Gail. There will be a signup sheet for volunteers in one-hour increments. Willie Robertson from Duck Dynasty will be a speaker at LifeLight this year.

Fellowship: Carla Midden reported the Fellowship Committee hosted a brunch for high school graduates and their families on Senior Recognition Sunday, May 3. The Committee will meet in late summer to plan events for the next year. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please contact Carla Midden.

Property: Todd Brower reported the tree on northeast corner of ESLC property was damaged. It will be addressed by Andersen Landscaping. The hot water heater in the lower level has a pretty significant leak, possibly due to the rusting on the bottom of it. Hander Plumbing and Heating has been contacted. Brion's Electric has been contacted for replacement of spotlight on west side of the chapel along with security lighting and lighting in the Fellowship Hall. The kitchen flooring project should be done later this month, which will take approximately two days. We had re-hired Green Forever to spray the yard throughout the whole premises for weeds four times a year (somehow that program got stopped). They will also spray weeds in the parking lot in the rock areas. As always, a Big thank you to Colleen and Marlin Wagness, Randy Kolden, Roger and Nita Lien, and anyone else whom I may have missed, for weed pulling in the flower gardens.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm. The next Council meeting will be held on August 23, 2026 at 11:15am.

Submitted by,
Kimberly Travers, Secretary

PORTRAIT OF A SPIRITUAL QUEST—RAY & BRENDA



AUTHOR'S NOTE: This brief profile of members of the East Side Lutheran Church family is presented here because they are in the pews and you have noticed them. In fact, you are often aware when they are in church and when they are not because their presence shapes your sense of belonging in this faith community. This story may offer an insight, a bit of inspiration or answer a question you've wanted to ask.

"Ray, you have to squeeze my hand and wiggle your toes," Brenda told her husband who was lying on a bed at the Nebraska Medical Center. Ray had been returned to a room after a seven-hour organ transplant surgery. He had spent seven hours the previous day to get bleeding under control for the procedure. Time under anesthesia had taken a toll so the test to squeeze and wiggle was not an easy one. That test could not be taken for granted after two days complex surgeries.

Ray Schut passed that test.

Ray knew that he had been close to death yet "All I could think about was 'I want Brenda here, now!'" he said. And she was. Her

presence proved to be good medicine for immediate and continued recovery.

"She was there the entire time," Ray said. "She probably drove the nurses nuts."

After a period of church shopping while they were dating Ray and Brenda began attending services at East Side. They were familiar with a traditional church look and order of worship. East Side looked right and felt right. They have been members here for 15 years.

By accepting invitations to serve on boards and committees the initial attraction was strengthened. It wasn't just the work; it was the welcome both acknowledged that folded them into the community.

"People asked us to be involved. We would not have sought that out on our own," Brenda said.

Ray's acceptance of a donor organ and his recovery from surgeries has been steady. But that was not always the case. By his own admission and a long list of examples Ray was no saint, yet for no reason he can explain Ray remembers a lifeline tossed to him when he was awaiting an organ. It occurred as a thought. It was a verse from Exodus 14:14. "The Lord will fight for you, and you only have to keep still."

Ray paid attention to a point. His body continues to tolerate the new organ while Ray has not been all that good at keeping still.

And that's okay. He's a salesman.

GET INVOLVED

Rummage Sale



Donate rummage sale item starting August 13th from 8-noon Monday– Friday at the Barn which is west of the church.

Volunteers are needed September 10th & 11th from 8 am to 6 pm. And Saturday the 12th from 8am—2pm helping as assistance to shoppers and cashiers.

Saturday at 2 pm many hands and strong backs are needed to pack up the items that didn't sell. These items are donated to a number of non-profits in the area.



Church on the Bus

October 4th join us on the bus to attend a Minneapolis to Vikings vs Dolphins football game. Contact Darin Benning 605-201-5207

Join in the fun with your East Side Lutheran Family



Two opportunities

Greeting at the East Side Lutheran booth at the Life Light Festival at Nelson Park or collect money at the church parking lots as a fundraiser for East Side Lutheran. Sign up on the board by the church office



Beer & Theology

The last Tuesday of each month join us at Remedy Brewing Company 401 E 8th at 7:00 pm



Choir & Handbells & Worship

Join in our worship service by providing music through the Adult Choir, King Choir or Handbells.

Ushering, communion servers, greeters, lectors, sound board, coffee servers are just a few ways to get involved. Stop in at the church office to get involved.

