



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

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Permit No. 1041
Sioux Falls, SD

August 2025



8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sundays

5:30 pm

Saturdays

WORSHIP SERVICES



The Voice

Volume 29 Issue 8

of East Side Lutheran Church

Welcoming All
Serving Others
Growing in Faith

August 2025

Talking About Relationships...



This year East Side Lutheran is blessed with many weddings happening in and through our congregation. We rejoice as two people come together as one in the presence of God, and begin a new creation. We are glad people still want God to be at the center of their relationship. At the same time, we also know that relationships are hard and take a great deal of work.

When people get married here at East Side, as a part of the pre-marital process we have them take an inventory to see where they may have both strength and growth areas in their relationship, as well as to be a bridge to get them talking about topics that can sometimes be uncomfortable for people to approach on their own. And, we also try to provide tools to keep them talking.

One of the tools we use for this is "Conversation Cards" from Prepare/Enrich (the organization who provides our premarital inventory). These cards cover nine topics from finances, to family and friends, to roles and responsibilities, and more. I thought it would be fun to share a few questions with you here. Maybe you take turns answering one question each night over dinner this week...?

- What can you do to better let your partner know you care and are listening?
- Do you ever feel unhappy or withdrawn? If so, how does this affect your partner?
- If there is no change in your spending habits, where will you be in 15-20 years?
- Have you discussed your savings goals as a couple?
- Share with each other your idea of a good time. Are they similar or different?
Have they changed?
- Do family or friends ever interfere with your relationship?
- What does "equal" mean to you in the context of your relationship?

Taking time for intentional conversation is important for every relationship. How might you start a caring and meaningful conversation tonight? I believe the most powerful conversations we can have are had *together* and *for* each other, in prayer.

-Pastor Layne



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

Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith Organist

Dr. Thomas Krause 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



Radio Sponsorship:

For 80 years we've received cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails from those who enjoy "being with you" in Sunday morning worship through our radio ministry.



"You're the church on the radio!"

-Sioux Falls Resident

YOU make this possible! Your sponsorship allows this to happen AND can honor someone or something special in your life... anniversaries, birthdays, the memory of a loved one or simply gratitude of God's love. **THANK YOU!** If you would like to help support this special ministry call the church office at 605-336-3597.

11:00am on KXRB Radio

(1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

Sponsor a radio broadcast - \$255/Sunday!



Online

Sponsorship:

Did you know that people in SD, ND, NV, WY, TX OK, OH (and other states) regularly worship with us online... and then share the Good News in their local community. **YOU make that possible!**

Online Sponsorship—\$50/Sunday!

August 10—In honor of Jennifer Nelson's birthday, given by Lloyd & Peggy Nelson.



As hearts simultaneously break and rejoice... please hold the following ESL families in prayer:

Al Fix

Vergil Benz

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.

Al Fix given by:

- Kay Dammer
- Dee Hohn
- Marv & Laurie McKnelly
- Reggie & Shelly Huber
- Bob & Jane Himrich
- Joyce Fuyok
- Al & Linda Hoefert

(gifts given as of July 25th)

Fall is Around the Corner

Please put these dates on your calendar:

- August 1st Registration due for Church on the Bus
- August 10 Healing Service
- August 16-17 Middle School/High School Lock-In
- September 3 Choirs Resume
- September 4-6 ESL Rummage Sale
- September 6 ESL Block Party
- September 7 Rally Sunday (1st Day Sun. School)
- September 10 Wednesday Night Meals Resume (6:00pm)
- September 10 Confirmation Resumes (6:45pm)
- September 14 Healing Service
- September 21 Church on the Bus Trip (Vikings/Bengals)
- October 4 Blessing of the Animals (6:30pm)

Church on the Bus

US Bank Stadium - September 21

\$225—Upper Deck Ticket and Transportation

Contact Darin Benning for Tickets ASAP

605-201-5207 benker45@sio.midco.net

Lets have fun together!



VIKINGS vs. BENGALS

COUNCIL MINUTES — PASTOR MICHAEL MOLLAND



East Side Lutheran Congregation Council Meeting July 13, 2025

Present: Ray Schut, Jon Cisar, Danielle Champa, Brian Ensberg, Carla Midden, Brenda Schut, Gwen Oakland, Michael Molland, and Pastor Layne Nelson. Excused absences: Todd Brower.

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:15.

Opening Devotions – Members of the Healing Service provided individual prayers and anointing with oil for the council members.

Secretary's Report: Danielle Champa moved; Brian Ensberg seconded to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion Carried.

President's Report: President Schut reported on the plans to rejuvenate the West Classroom. On July 26 at 7:00 am the council members will gather to paint and update the décor. Summer projects include constructing a conversation area in the Narthex. Also desirable would be a Congregation Welcome/Information table/booth.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Layne Nelson reported that attendance has been down after the end of the school year. He also noted that even with less people in worship that offerings had remained strong based on past years. Pastor Nelson reported that all staff members have taken some personal leave time this summer and this rest time has helped after a very busy spring.

Pastor Nelson reported that the Worship Committee have brought new things to our worship such as the Kites during the Easter worship. (explanation: Kites in worship are often used as metaphors for faith, freedom, and the Holy Spirit) All committees are having a positive impact on our congregation.

Financial Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg report-

ed that year-to-date as of May 31, 2025 we are \$9,075 better than budget. In May we received a \$10,000 gift that will be applied to the mortgage principal. In June the \$10,000 stewardship challenge gift was received which led to a good revenue month where revenue exceeded expenses. While June has not closed we will remain ahead of budget year to date and cash flow remains positive.

Jon Cisar moved; Carla Midden seconded to approve the financial report for May 2025. Motion Carried.

Committees: Stewardship & Visioning - Jon Cisar reported on the Stewardship task force meeting of June 11. A timeline for the Fall appeal was put into place. Consecration Sunday will be November 9 and our "Thanks For Giving Meal" will be on November 23. The \$10,000 challenge gift was received in June.

Education – Gwen Oakland reported on summer Bible Camp for children of our congregation. Eleven confirmation students attended Confirmation Camp with Pastor Nelson. Vacation Bible School will be on August 4 and 5 at the church. Plans are being made for the beginning of Sunday School in September. Youth activities for Summer are being planned.

Outreach – Danielle Champa reported over 50 members attended the Sioux Falls Canaries game on June 4. We hosted "Church on the Street" worship on June 22 but indoors because of the heat. Ten members participated in a softball gathering on July 3

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported on "Church on the Bus" Vikings game event coming on September 21. We are again signed up for the Life Light event both for a booth and parking.

Fellowship – Carla Midden reported on the Block Party scheduled for September 6th. Next year they will assume the responsibility for the brunch for the graduates as well as for confirmands and their families.

For Couples—Creating Your Celebration Culture

from our partners at Prepare/Enrich (prepare-enrich.com)

Are you someone who celebrates their birthday all month, all week, one day, or not at all? Where does your spouse land? Chances are you fall into one of these categories, and you probably know people who fit into the others. Are you and your spouse in the same group? If not, how are you navigating those differences? It seems like a minor thing, but how you celebrate – whether it's birthdays, holidays, milestones, or accomplishments – runs much deeper.

Similar to your attitudes toward money or how you handle conflict, celebrations are something that people often learn from their own family growing up. The way your family celebrated probably seemed "normal" to you – you assumed everyone did it that way. Eventually, you realize that's just what you're accustomed to and that your spouse's or friends' families all celebrated in their own special ways. The reality is, there's no right or wrong way to celebrate. You don't have to stick to what you've always known or adopt all of your spouse's traditions either. You can create your own unique celebration culture as a couple – one that you eventually pass down to your own family as well. Let's explore some of the things that influence this aspect of your relationship.

What do you celebrate? Of course there are the typical events, like birthdays and holidays, but you're not restricted to just those. You can expand your celebrations to include whatever you want. Think of dates that mark lesser known yet meaningful memories or occasions, such as your dating anniversary or your beloved pet's birthday. Or consider the things that happen less unpredictably, such as getting a new job or big promotion, the kids making the honor roll or losing their first tooth, or the first big snowfall of the season. Not every day needs to be a party, but finding reasons to celebrate is a simple way to add joy, intention, and quality time to your lives amidst the daily grind.

How do you celebrate? While what you celebrate is obviously an important part of your celebration culture, how you celebrate is perhaps what makes it one-of-a-kind. Do you go big on everything? Do you keep things pretty low-key, but go all-out for particular milestones or achievements? Do you celebrate with gifts, experiences, food, or a combination of all? Who celebrates with you? Do you keep it small with just immediate family, or do extended family and friends join the fun? In the moment, these just seem like logistical decisions, but collectively they create the overall dynamic of your celebration culture.

Do what works for you. With social media, we get to see what everyone else is celebrating and how that looks. If over-the-top decorations, picture-perfect charcuterie tables, or trendy themed birthday parties bring you and your family joy, then embrace that! But don't let it pressure you into feeling like you have to do that, too. The quirky and casual celebrations and traditions you create can be just as meaningful.

Be intentional, but flexible. If there are things that your family did growing up that you really loved – or didn't love – you can make a decision with your spouse about whether you want to carry that into your marriage and family. Just remember that nothing is set in stone. Your celebration culture, just like the family traditions that have been around for generations, can and will evolve. For example, the way you celebrate might change as you go through different life stages with your spouse or as your children grow. Similarly, if you and your spouse grew up with very different celebration cultures, it might take some time to figure out what's right for your marriage, so be open-minded when it comes to incorporating new things.

Your marriage is one-of-a-kind for many reasons – your personalities, backgrounds, upbringing, and experiences all come together in a unique and dynamic way, giving your relationship a sense of depth and complexity that cannot be replicated. Your celebration culture is part of that. It's a joyful opportunity to express yourself as a couple or a family.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



If you gave me \$20 and then I gave you \$250, would you think that's a pretty good investment? Well, that's what Thrivent Financial does for East Side members and their families. When you register as an Associate Member of Thrivent Financial, you'll invest \$20 for your membership which entitles you to a \$250 action grant that can be used for events at East Side Lutheran.

We use action grants for activities like Sioux Falls Canaries tickets, candy for our Trunk or Treat Event, food at our annual Thanks for Giving meal and a whole host of other occasions during the year. Action grants allow us to provide these activities without jeopardizing our budget.

Thrivent Financial doesn't require you to have investments or insurance with their company and they won't bombard you with phone calls, e-mails or flyers. As a matter of fact, you won't hear from them at all, unless you initiate contact.

East Side Lutheran will make it even easier for you to become an Associate Member. We have members that will guide you through the process. All you have to do is get in contact with them and they'll do all the work.

Becoming an Associate Member of Thrivent Financial is an easy and cost effective way to support our church and the activities that so many take part in. If you'd like to move forward, contact the church office...and thanks in advance for your generosity.



TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



In our 2025 budget we recommitted to supporting the missions that we are called to assist. Halfway through the year we have provided \$4,120 of support to Lutheran Outdoors, Shetek Bible Camp, community outreach, food programs, St. Francis House, St. Dymas, Church on the Street, and to our Synod. This assistance far exceeds what we were able to give one year ago and while we have more work to do, we are well on our way.

In June, we received the \$10,000 stewardship challenge gift as a result of exceeding our stewardship goal. Thank You! This challenge gift, as well as the gifts from many others, allowed revenues to exceed expenses for the month of June.

As of June 30, our year-to-date offerings are up 11% over last year, and expenses are less than budget. Our budget is right on track through the first six months. The complete year-to-date budget is posted on the Church bulletin board. Contact Brian Ensberg at 605-254-1870 with any questions that you may have.

EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



LifeLight 2025 – Evangelism Opportunity

The LifeLight Festival will be held August 31st at Nelson Park, just west of the church. The Festival is a dynamic, free event that brings together people of all ages for a powerful celebration of faith, music, and community. The mission is to share the hope and joy of the Gospel.

East Side will host a booth/tent at the festival from noon-10 pm. We will need volunteers to help share the good news of East Side Lutheran. You can sign up for a quick hour and then enjoy the rest of the day at the festival.

Similar to last year we will also rent out our parking lot for festival attendees. The proceeds raised will be used for youth activities. We will also need a few volunteers to help man the "gates" of our parking lot.

If you are able to volunteer at the festival booth or the parking lot, please sign up at the bulletin board.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN




We are busy getting ready for Sunday School to start on Sunday, September 7th (Rally Sunday). The Education Task Force worked on Saturday morning, July 12th by sorting through things in the resource room, the storage room along with the Sunday School and Youth offices. Items were sorted to keep, throw, recycle, donate, sell on Marketplace and for the church rummage sale. We walked away seeing a major change in the way things looked. We will be getting together again this month to put the finishing touches on things.

Teachers Needed: We are looking for two teachers to join our team this fall. God may be stirring in your heart; please contact the church office or email me at jswiden@aol.com. Together we are living into the promises we made for our children in Baptism to raise them in faith. Let us rejoice in this process together.

Blessings!

Jackie Swiden-Sunday School Director



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:30 pm Worship
3 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 11:15 Education Task Force	4	5 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	6 6:00 pm Stewardship Task Force Meeting	7 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Food to You	8	9 5:30 pm Worship
10 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 11:15 Healing Service	11 9:00 am Quilters—Lower Level	12 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 6:00 pm Charis Board	13	14 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Scrapbooking/crafts 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	15	16 5:30 pm Worship 8:00 pm Youth Lock In
17 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 11:15 Council Meeting	18 Newsletter Items Due	19 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	20	21 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	22	23 5:30 pm Worship
24 8:00 and 10:00 am worship	25 9:00 am Quilters—Lower Level	26 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	27	28 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	29	30 5:30 pm Worship
31 8:00 and 10:00 am worship						

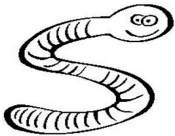
Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggot, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.



Proverbs 6:6

— — —

Psalms 78:45

— — — — —

Matthew 23:24

— — — —

Judges 14:8b

— — — —

Acts 12:23

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

Deuteronomy 7:20

— — — — —

Exodus 16:20

— — — — —

1 Samuel 24:14

— — — —

Isaiah 50:9

— — — — —

Isaiah 59:5

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMP AND A BIG THANK YOU!

This past March the Council presented you with the opportunity to sponsor our youth campers at Shetek and NeSoDak. Boy did you step up and step up **BIG!!** Your donations are appreciated by your council and the families of the campers.

By all accounts the kids had a blast!! We asked them to share some of their favorite parts of camp:

Allyson: loved the food and the Christ Hike
 Kaytlyn: saying grace before every meal and the Christ Hike
 Amelia: loved participating in arts & crafts, especially making bracelets with other campers
 Evelyn: really enjoyed visiting the wildlife refuge and the top view from the lighthouse
 Treyson: meeting new friends and kayaking
 Emma: getting closer to God and the fire tower
 Addison: the Christ Hike and campfires
 Aiden: hanging out with new people and campfires
 Hailey: getting to know friends from church better and boating
 Alex: paddle boarding and kayaking and EARNING the clean cabin award

Several campers went on to say they have become a tighter knit group with their church peers and how they enjoyed spending time with Pastor Layne and Gwen.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to help give our East Side Youth the opportunity to make memories at camp and grow in their faith.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - USHERS



Each of us who attended a church service at East Side Lutheran have met the Volunteers highlighted this month. Some of these ushers have been volunteering for less than a year while others have been ushering since the 1970's. Roger and Reggie both remember when the ushers needed to wear suits and ties, and they walked people down the aisles to seat them. Roger said, "You got to know who sat where and made sure you walked them to the pew they preferred to sit in". Back then, there were three services, and the ushers were responsible for opening the church in the morning and locking the church up at the end of Sunday services. Now that we have security at the church during services, they no longer have that responsibility.

Reggie remembers thinking that ushers needed to be a certain age to usher. He soon found out that there was no age requirement when he was asked to help in the 1980's. That was when his children started Sunday school. One of the things that sticks out to him is all the people he has had the opportunity to meet and get to know. Sometimes you know their faces and soon you learn the names that go with those faces. One of the reasons he has continued to usher for over 40 years is the people.

When asked what an usher's responsibilities are, everyone said the same thing. Greet people to church with a smile or sometimes a hug and make everyone feel welcome no matter if they are a long-time member or visiting. We collect the offering. Which many admit the offering envelopes are fewer than years past as many members have opted for automatic withdrawal each month. They also collect communion cards. Another piece that many do not know is that they are responsible for helping if there is a medical emergency. They have had training in using the Automated external defibrillator (AED). And thankfully they have not had to use it, but they are comforted knowing that it is available if needed.



Evie is one of the more recent ushers to join the group and she loves greeting all her ESL family each Sunday. It was obvious while visiting with her that she loves people and enjoys giving hugs and checking in with them on how they are doing week to week. She also invited Phil to join the usher group during a bible study. Phil said "it was easy to say yes" as he was looking for a way to get more involved with the church.

If you are interested in getting involved as an usher, please contact the church office and before you know it you will be handing out bulletins, collecting offering and communion cards. James shared, people are busy but if they are coming to church, it is a way to get involved and takes little to no extra time. And who knows, you might meet some new ESL friends.