



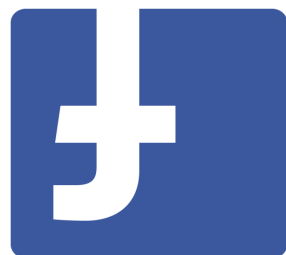
East Side Lutheran Church
1300 East 10th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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February 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 2

of East Side Lutheran Church

February 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Leaving a legacy... Our congregation has an 80+ year history with radio ministry. Pastor Harry Gregerson started legacy in our ESL sanctuary with a radio broadcast, that went on to develop into a radio program known as **Lutheran Vespers** (later known as **The Hour of Hope**). This radio ministry was broadcast to almost half of the country, reaching 23 states! That is quite an impact. And while that ministry is no longer broadcasting, it still lives on through its endowment; that is, monies that were invested, and of which the interest generated is still used for ministry. I presently have the privilege to sit on their board as chair for that endowment, and each year our team distributes over \$7,000 to various churches who want to start or

improve upon their own broadcast ministries in the SD Synod. **The legacy continues.**

Did you know that **East Side Lutheran** has its own **endowment**? This consists of financial gifts from those who went before us in faith that were set aside and invested. The interest generated from these gifts then furthers the ministry at East Side in perpetuity. Please note, the principal given is invested and never spent, only a portion of the earnings that are generated each year. Our church's endowment is overseen by our Finance Committee, in consultation with our Wells Fargo financial advisors.

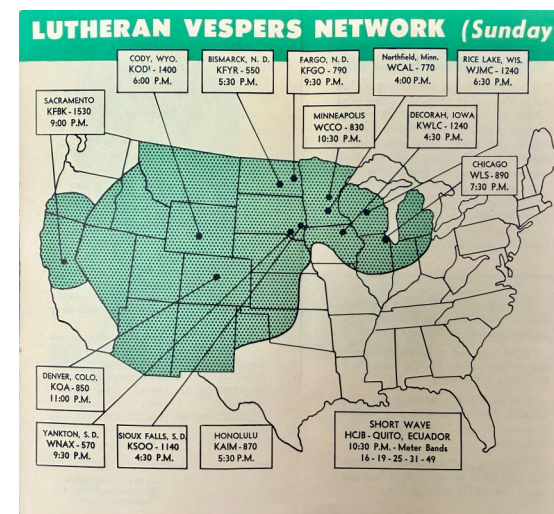
In 2026 our church's endowment will contribute \$32,000 to ministry at East Side! Each year this amount can increase as people contribute to our endowment, and as the investments grow. This is the fruit of the labors of those who have gone before us, which we build upon today, for those who will follow us in faith in the years to come.

Some of the ways that people help the endowment grow is through making *memorial gifts* and *special occasion gifts* to the endowment. Still, the real impact is felt when people remember the East Side Lutheran endowment in their **estate plans, end of life gifts, and through RMDs** (required minimum distributions from retirement accounts). This is a great way for many to gain tax savings for their family, while blessing the ministry of the church in the process.

Part of our stewardship is to plan for a future that will leave a great legacy of faith for generations to come. This is why Jennifer and I contribute to the East Side endowment. Remember we are in this...

Together in Faith,

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

Jackie Swiden.....Sunday School Superintendent

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

Sundays, 8:00 am

Radio Sponsorships

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 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.

11:00am on KXRB Radio

(1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

Sponsor a radio broadcast

\$255/Sunday!

Online Sponsorships

Each week there are over 500 individuals who click to view our 8:00 am service on our Facebook page at East Side Lutheran. Many of those individuals are members who are traveling and don't want to miss out on staying connected with the Good Word.

Thank you to those who have sponsored and to those considering a sponsorship.

Please consider sponsoring an online

worship service to mark an important milestone in your life, and to help us spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Online Sponsorship—only \$50/Sunday!



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

Jason Walz given by

- Mark & Mari Ossenfort

Phillip "Bart" Fauteck given by

- Family & friends

Sally Ensberg given by

- Kay Dammer

- Kary Dammer

- Marlin & Colleen Wangsness

- Bob & Jane Himrich

- Sharon Austin

- Sue Fodness

- Terry & Linda Bornitz

- Jim & Judy Vollmer

- Judi Eliason

- Don Salberg

- Merlin & Barb Goehring

Nathan Overgard given by

- Kay Dammer

- Marlin & Colleen Wangsness

- Janet Keenan Hauck

- Merlin & Barb Goehring

- Guy & Arlyce Eich

- Dee Hohn

- Sharon Fix

- Judi Eliason

- Evie Pruden

- Kelly Myrlie

- Clarence & Dee Gorter

- Nyla Barrett

- Char VanBockern

Bill & Alice Kruse given by

- Their daughters

Harlan Hohn given by
- Marlin & Colleen Wangsness

Rich Stoebner given by
- Bob & Jane Himrich

**In Honor
Dee Black's Birthday**

- Joyce Fuyok
- Laurie McNelly

(Gifts received by January 25th)

Upcoming Events

Feb 1	Roller Skating
Feb 22	BINGO 2-4pm
March 15	Cribbage Tournament 1-3pm



The Fellowship Committee is looking for donations of prizes for the upcoming BINGO on February 22nd! Prizes can be new or gently used and dropped off at the church office. Gift cards are also a popular prize.

Congratulations to Dee Black who celebrated 90 years young. A celebration was held on January 11th in the Fellowship Hall at East Side Lutheran.



TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Financial Committee Minutes

Present: Pam Alexander, Dave Brunkow, Wayne Hart, Doug Jacobson, Pastor Layne Nelson, Business Manager Wayne Wosje, Brian Ensberg

Opening Prayer: Pastor Layne Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.

Cell Tower Decision: The committee reviewed the historic timeline including the original agreement signed in 2013, and the First Amendment to Lease Agreement signed in 2017 running to 2068. In February 2020, \$250,000 was withdrawn from the Endowment to pay down the mortgage. Since that time cell tower monthly rent has been deposited into the endowment fund. In 2025, the rent income to the endowment fund was \$17,878. The committee weighed two options: 1) Expand the lease to add an additional 625 square feet, or 2) sell a perpetual lease for the original 900 square feet and an additional 625 square feet to American Tower.

Pastor Layne Nelson indicated that the Finance Committee's recommendation will be sent to the Church Council for approval and then a congregational vote will take place at the February 8, 2026 Annual Meeting.

After lengthy discussion, Pam Alexander made a motion to sell the perpetual easement of the existing 900 square foot cell tower footprint plus and an additional 625 square feet to American Tower and that 100% of the proceeds be deposited into the East Side Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund. Doug Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dave Brunkow recommended that we conduct a campaign to retire our building debt and fund capital projects. Dave agreed to write a newsletter article on the purpose of endowment.

2025 Budget Outcome: Brian Ensberg reported that we had a positive outcome in 2025.

2026 Budget: Brian Ensberg presented the proposed 2026 budget. Contributed income will increase by 7.1%, which represents commitments in our recently completed stewardship campaign. New in 2026, debit card and supper income/expense will be shown in the budget. Also budgeted will be a new position at \$13,750. Monthly spreads were reviewed along with end of year adjustments to the balance sheet.

Doug Jacobson made a motion to approve the 2026 budget. Dave Brunkow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Ensberg



PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



My Prayers are Boring

Most people, if they had to describe me, wouldn't use the word boring. I try not to be. I work really hard at listening, asking questions and to have a meaningful conversations with others. But, my prayers have to be the most boring things that God hears.

They're always the same. I give thanks for the same things, I ask for the same stuff...boring. No-body ever taught me HOW to pray. Sure, I learned how to pray The Lords Prayer and a few others but I never had a lesson on "freestyle" prayer. UNTIL! I listened to a speaker that said a person, who doesn't really know how to pray, should talk to God like you'd speak to your best friend. Lay it all on the line. Tell God how you're feeling, tell him why you're thankful, tell him what's going on in your head, in your heart and in your body. Let him know when you're frustrated, angry, happy, sad, etc.

This speaker told me that it doesn't need to be formal, to be eloquent or sophisticated. God already knows what's going on in your life, let Him know how you feel about it. He understands and you aren't being graded on the correct use of grammar.

That was a relief, so I started talking to God. And it felt great! I'd always heard Pastors say that God wants to have a relationship with me but, I never really understood what that looked like. Now, I speak to him like a lifelong friend. It's helped me feel more connected to Him and less guilty about "going through the motions" of prayer.

That doesn't mean that all of my prayers get answered, after all God isn't some magical genie that just grants prayer requests. But, I feel closer to Him and that gives me a sense of peace. If you feel like you're in a prayer rut, I invite you to try talking to Him...He's available whenever you are!

WELL DESERVED TIME AWAY—PASTOR LAYNE

Pastor Layne traveled to England with his son Jonah the last week of January and first week of February. We hope that he is relaxing some and enjoy exploring with his son. He shared a picture of his journey with the office staff. The background in this photo is Stonehenge, the famous prehistoric stone circle in Wiltshire, England.

The large upright stones with flat stones laid across the top are called lintels. Stonehenge dates back about 4,500 years and is believed to have been used for ceremonial or astronomical purposes.

We pray for blessing and safe travels during their time away.



COUNCIL MINUTES — KIM TRAVERS

Present: Ray Schut, Carla Midden, Brian Ensberg, Brenda Schut, Gwen Oakland, Jon Cisar, Todd Brower, Danielle Champa, Kimberly Travers, and Pastor Layne Nelson.

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:10am. Carla Midden moved to accept the agenda without changes. Danielle seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Layne Nelson opened the meeting with a question to all: “What would you say if you had a brush with greatness in Jesus?” Good group discussion was shared. Pastor Layne recognized Jon Cisar for his service on the Church Council. A prayer of thanks for Jon and everyone who serves ESLC and this community was given.

Secretary’s Report: Carla Midden moved to accept the December 21, 2025 Council meeting minutes as presented. Jon Cisar seconded. Motion carried.

President’s Report: President Schut discussed how busy the ESLC 2026 calendar is already, giving specific thanks to Gwen Oakland and Pastor Layne. President Schut noted that it is important for ESLC members to see the church as a place that is continually moving forward. An ESLC apparel sale will occur again soon. All proceeds will go toward youth activities.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Layne Nelson reviewed his report with the Council. He will be out of the office January 22 – February 6, 2026. Pastor Phillips from St. Dysmas will lead worship for the next two Sundays. “Beer and Theology” will be held a week earlier this month.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported that ESLC finished the 2025 calendar year \$10,567 in the black. The Stewardship Campaign was very successful. Debit Card Income and Supper Income are now line items in the budget to provide visibility instead of being just on the balance sheet. Gwen Oakland moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Ensberg presented the ESLC 2026 budget approved by the Finance Committee at their recent meeting. \$36,735 growth is projected in 2026, which is a 7.1% increase. On the expense side, the new church part-time position is in the budget, and Pastor’s discretion will be utilized for this position.

ESLC received a gift of \$5,000 in December 2025, with \$1,000 going to the Broadcast Ministry, and \$4,000 to be utilized for Kitchen improvements. Carla Midden and Jackie Swiden will work with Todd Brower to identify kitchen needs and priorities. Carla Midden moved to accept the 2026 Budget as presented. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Ensberg discussed End of Year Adjustments to the Balance Sheet. Motion to accept the End of Year Adjustments to the Balance Sheet as presented was made by Gwen Oakland and seconded by Carla Midden. Motion carried.

Treasurer Ensberg discussed the January 2026 Finance Committee Minutes. The Finance Committee recommended a focus on retiring the building debt and funding fund capital projects. Another key item was discussion around the Cell Tower. The Finance Committee recommended the following motion: “Sell the perpetual easement of the existing 900 square foot cell tower footprint plus an additional 625 square feet to American Tower and that 100% of the proceeds be deposited into East Side Lutheran Church’s Endowment Fund.” Brian Ensberg made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and take it to the members at ESLC during the annual meeting for a final vote. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

An informational meeting will be held in advance of the Annual Meeting regarding the Cell Tower sale. This meeting will be held at ESLC on January 31, 2026 at 10AM.

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS — CARLA MIDDEN



The fellowship Committee has been busy planning and organizing a couple of events for 2026. First on February 22nd from 2-4pm BINGO will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Individuals of all ages are welcome to participate at no charge.

A breakfast for the graduating seniors and families is in the works and a date will be determined in the near future.

The committee will also be helping to serve at the Egg-stravaganza coming up in April.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



Valentines Day is right around the corner and our Sunday School program is full of love. We have jumped into the New Year by working on Milestone projects along with special lessons in each of our classrooms. During Lent Teachers and Sunday School families will be serving the Wednesday evening meal on February, 25th. The sign up sheet is located by the elevator in the Sunday School area.

Save The Dates

February 15th - No Sunday School- President's Day weekend

March 28th - The Annual Eggstravaganza (watch for more information)

March 29th - Palm Sunday, Children sing in church

March 29th - 5th grade class will make unleavened bread that will be used during their first communion.

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday - 5th grade first communion

April 5th - No Sunday School - Easter

May 3rd - Milestone projects displayed in Narthex

EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT

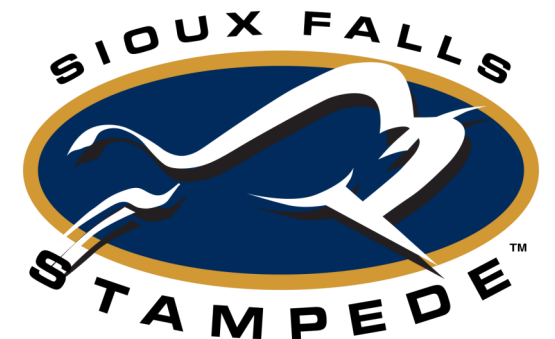


Faith & Family Night with the Sioux Falls Stampede – February 15

We’re excited to share a great opportunity to gather together for a fun afternoon and evening of hockey! On February 15th, we’re invited to join the Sioux Falls Stampede for their Faith & Family Night. The game begins at 4:00 PM, with a special opportunity to pray with the team chaplain at 3:30 PM beforehand.

Tickets are just \$10, and a sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board through February 1st. We’d love to see a BIG East Side crowd in attendance—feel free to wear your East Side apparel to show off your ESL spirit and cheer together!

Looking forward to seeing you there!!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 11:15 Education Task Force 2:00 Roller Skating	2	3 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	4 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper– Bacon Cheeseburger Pasta 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	5 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Food to You Distribution	6	7 5:30 pm Worship
8 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 11:15 Healing Service 11:10 Annual Meeting	9 9:00 am Quilters	10 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	11 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper-Walking Tacos 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	12 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	13	14 5:30 pm Worship 
15 8:00 & 10:00 Worship No Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting 4:00 Stampede	16 Newsletter Items Due	17 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	18 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45 pm Adult Choir	19 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	20 1:00 pm Union Gospel Meeting with WELCA	21 5:30 pm Worship
22 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 2-4pm BINGO Fellowship Hall	23 9:00 am Quilters	24 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	25 12:00 pm Lenten Worship and lunch 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Adult Choir	26 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	27	28 5:30 pm Worship
						

Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Stewardship & Visioning – Jon Cisar reported the Stewardship Task Force met via Zoom with the GSB consultant on the topics of ESLC endowment, estate gifts, and planned giving.

Discussion was held regarding the telling of stories about those who donate, creating quarterly estate gift asks, and developing a flyer and/or a brochure. Other ideas mentioned included writing a quarterly newsletter article, four mailings a year, and holding an annual planned giving workshop. The Task Force will meet once more on February 12, 2026 at 6pm as the two-year contract with GSB will wrap up.

President Schut said ESLC could do a better job of extoling church activities and services to visitors, guests, and even to current members. He recommended creating a mobile welcome desk to hold this information and tell the ESLC story. President Schut asked Church Council members to email him at least one name and contact information this week who could be spotlight candidates.

Education – Gwen Oakland presented the remaining confirmation schedule for the year. There will be Youth Committee meeting on January 21, 2026 with the confirmation class to get input and feedback. The Fellowship Committee will assist with the Senior Recognition on May 3, 2026. She is looking into Thrivent Action Grant for the Lock-In and the Senior Recognition supper. Shetek Lutheran Ministries recently requested that ESLC consider appointing a camp representative. There will be focus on camp funding opportunities again in 2026.

Outreach – Danielle Champa reported that ESLC will be serving and sponsoring Food2You in March 2026. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet by the office. Food will also be collected prior.

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported that a letter for the Confirmands regarding the Annual Meeting has been sent out. February 15, 2026 is Faith and Family at the Stampede hockey game. June 17, 2026 is Faith Night at the Canaries baseball game. September 2026 will be Life Light. Two people have joined the Evangelism Committee. Brenda put monthly thank you on Facebook for people to recognize others.

Fellowship – Carla Midden reported Bingo is scheduled for February 22, 2026 from 2-4pm. Prizes are needed and can be dropped off at the Church office. The Washington High School sweatshirt drive was successful, and the sweatshirts have been delivered. Wednesday night suppers are going well. The idea of creating an East Side Lutheran Church Cookbook was discussed. Anyone interested should contact President Schut.

New Business

Lenten Supper opportunity – The Church Council will prepare and serve Lenten supper on March 4, 2026.

February 8, 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda – The proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting was reviewed and then approved as presented. Brenda Schut and Gwen Oakland volunteered to sit at the Registration Table. Todd Brower will walk the microphone around during the meeting. The Nominating Committee will distribute, collect, and tally the election ballots.

2025 Annual Report – Pastor Layne said the Annual Report will be assembled this week and sent out to the congregation. Some paper copies will be printed out and made available at the Annual Meeting. Attendees will be encouraged to print their own paper copies if desired.

Nominating Committee Update – Pastor Layne reported that the Nomination Committee is working on Jon Cisar's upcoming vacancy, identifying South Dakota Synod assembly representatives, and six people to serve on the next Nominating Committee.

Boy Scout Troop Re-Charter – Pastor Layne said each year at this time, the Boy Scouts renew the charter. The Scouting Organization has given the okay to have a Family troop. The ESLC-sponsored Boy Scout troop has requested to recharter as a Family troop. Danielle Champa motioned to continue sponsoring the Troop as a Family troop, and Carla Midden seconded. Motional carried.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:52pm. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2026, at 11:15am.

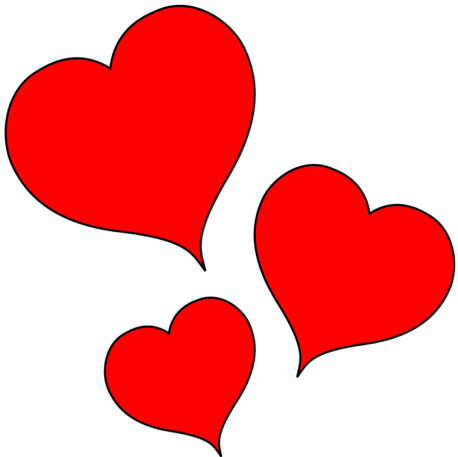


Love Thy Neighbor

T	P	Q	R	U	D	O	W	X	P	S	B	R	Z	I
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Word list:

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| BUILD | HUMBLE |
| CARE | KIND |
| COMPASSIONATE | LOVE |
| ENCOURAGE | MIND |
| FORGIVE | NEIGHBOR |
| GOD | PRAY |
| HEART | SHARE |
| HELP | TREAT |



Portrait of a Spiritual Quest



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.*

Kevin and Megan Schurman dated for eight years before they got engaged and married at East Side Lutheran Church. It's a magic number in their families; her older sister and brother dated their spouses for eight years as well.

Megan, formerly from Fairmount, MN and Kevin, formerly from Yankton, SD, met while Megan was in college. Both Megan and Kevin had experiences in common: they grew up in families that could do things with their hands.

After graduating from South Dakota State University, Megan worked with cancer patients at Sanford for a decade.

For Kevin those practical farm experiences led to a career. He works for Tessiers, a commercial heating and cooling company in Sioux Falls. It was a good fit for the skills he learned from his father and grandfather.

"I used to hang around and help. I'd hand them things," Kevin said. Hanging around meant farm work, a four-wheeler and the open spaces to explore. Though Kevin played basketball in high school he came to the conclusion that "I wasn't good enough," so he moved on. However, "I knew I was going to do trades," he said.

Megan, the daughter of a house builder, was frequently in the presence of whining saws and swirling dust – all part of building yet another home. Megan's dad would build; Megan's mom would paint and stain. Growing up this was a normal way of life.

"We moved a lot. Dad would build one house (in Fairmount) and start another. And when that one was done, we'd move to the new one," Megan said.

In high school Megan found a comfortable place outdoors just as her husband did on the farm. She was a lifeguard and a golfer. Playing golf was made far sweeter because Megan competed with her older siblings and won enough time for bragging rights.

South Dakota outdoors remains a lure and a distinct pleasure for the couple: Kevin and Megan fish; Kevin hunts. Both grew up in communities small enough to know who they were and care about what happened to them.

And perhaps those experiences led them to East Side. Both remember going to church when they were younger. The look of the building conveyed a sense of safe and special place. Both remember that but both quit going to church for a while. However both had memories of a Sunday church routine and so when they got together they started looking for something familiar. For Megan, the look of the place reminded her of the church she grew up in – Fairmont Grace Lutheran.

"When we started going to East Side we were impressed by the energetic welcome," Megan said. And another thing: "the sermons were very relatable," Kevin said.

And there was something else. "It seems like the pastor was made to do this job."