



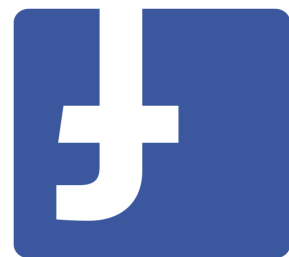
East Side Lutheran Church
 1300 East 10th Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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May 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 5

of East Side Lutheran Church

May 2026



The Sanctity of Gardening

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

*Spending just 20 minutes in nature can lower one's blood pressure.
 (7 health benefits of spending time in nature; UCLA Health)*

For those of us in the Dakotas, this is a wonderful time of year. The frigid temperatures and frozen ground of winter are finally in the rear view mirror... the sun is out, and the waters have opened up. There is a newfound freedom as we spill out of our houses into the wonder of God's creation. It just feels right. In the process, we find all kinds of benefits as we live as God created us to live.

From a Hebrew understanding of the Genesis story, Adam and Eve were to be the "Gardeners" of all that God created (Gen 2:15). Let that sink in for a moment. They were to take seriously their responsibility to work, nurture, and care for all of God's creation. It was their (and our) "job description".

We see this image carry over to the New Testament in the account of Jesus' first resurrection appearance in the gospel of John (Jn 20:11-18). Here Jesus is first mistaken for, you guessed it, "the Gardener". Jesus is the New Adam, giving new life to all that God has made.

This is a great time of year to rediscover the amazing world God has created. To paraphrase Genesis, "God created... and it was good!" I would like to add that this includes, you! You are a part of God's "Good Creation".

As you find ways to enjoy yourself this summer, please... honor God by staying connected to Him through regular worship (this is important), and by renewing your connection to and care for creation... the earth and all people.

Let this summer remind us to be stewards of ALL that God has made. Let this summer be about... "gardening".

Remember we are in this... Together in Faith.



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.



May 3—In memory of Alice Sylliaasen given by Dave & Nona Bixler & Family

May 10— In honor of Ramona Moe's (Diana Shotwell's Mother) 95th Birthday given by Wayne & Diana Shotwell



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

Tim Kniep given by

- Marv & Laurie McKnelly

Randy Klein given by

- Nancy Renner

In Honor of

Harriet Norem given by

- Susan Bentz

(Gifts received as of April 27th)



East Side will be welcoming

New Members May 17

If you are interested in joining this community of faith, please contact our new member coordinator, Sue Hart: susanmhart1@yahoo.com for more information.

Invite your friends. Discover how might God be working through you in this place.

UPCOMING



May 3	High School Senior Recognition
May 10	Last Day of Sunday School
May 17	New Member Reception
May 17	Disc Golf at Tuthill Park 2:00 pm
June 17	Family Night—SF Canaries 6:35 pm
July 7	ESL Vacation Bible School 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Memorial Day Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, lifting up the men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. We thank You for the courage, their selfless sacrifice, and their dedication to protecting the freedoms we hold dear.

Lord, we ask for Your continued strength and healing for our veterans. For those carrying the visible and invisible wounds of war, grant them Your perfect peace and restorative grace. Surround them with a supportive community and let them feel the depth of our appreciation every day, not just on holidays.

We also remember the families of those who served, asking that You bless them for their own sacrifices and steadfast love. Help us, as a church family, to honor our veterans by living lives of service, integrity, and compassion in our own community.

In Your holy name we pray,

AMEN

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



Time is fascinating to me. It has a different meaning now than it did in my teens and twenties. Back then time stood still while I was in class, went too fast during summer break, flew by when with my friends, dragged at work, it was ticking when I crammed for a test, I wasted it chasing girls and always thought there was an endless supply of it.

As the years rolled by I learned that time is money, use your time wisely, either you manage it or it manages you, it flies when you're having fun, where'd the time go, just give it time, time heals all wounds, got more time than money, time keeps on ticking, ticking, ticking...into the future, I've never had too much time on my hands, oh boy...look at the time, it's time to go, I have time for one more, this time it'll be different.

And the older you get the more time changes. Test results sure take a lot of time, is it that time already, time for bed, time for lunch, time for Wheel of Fortune, a stitch in time (saves nine), time is a thief, if only I had that time back, no time like the present, it stands the test of time, I wouldn't have spent so much time at work, time is running out, how much time is left.

Time can be viewed as a blessing or a curse, but one things for sure...it's all we have. You may not have money, good looks or education but, you have time. I don't worry about time like I used to and neither should you. In the words of Billy Graham: "No situation is beyond God's control. Over my wife's desk are these words: 'Fear not the future; God is already there.'"

YOUTH NEWS — GWEN OAKLAND



Our confirmation students have been learning about the Bible using guide books "The Bible and You". The guide book helps us to understand how the Bible came to be.

Our annual Quiz Bowl was held on April 22nd. Which is always a fun event for all of us.

This year has flown by, the last night of confirmation was April 29th and we ended with games, campfire and smores. We really had a year filled with many activities, here are just a few things we have done throughout the year: over night Lock-In (not once but twice), Sky Zone fun night, BINGO at Trail Ridge, roller skating, attending "Prince of Peace" at the Orpheum Theater, rock climbing, packing meals at Kid's Against Hunger, had a corny time at the Country Corn Maze and helped with many worship services.

A special brunch will be held for the Seniors and families on May 3rd. These Seniors will be honored and recognized at the 10:00 am worship service as well.

Our last day of Sunday School is May 10th. But the fun doesn't stop then as we have some fun summer activities planned as well. Mark your calendars for July 7th for Vacation Bible School which will be just one night from 5:30—8:00 pm at the church. We will have supper at 5:30, followed by a lesson, camp songs and smores. We would love to see all of the kiddo's there.

Summer wouldn't be summer without Bible camp. Confirmation camp will be at NeSoDak June 21st-26th. Pastor Layne and I are planning to spend the week at camp with the kids.



TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Each year, East Side Lutheran Church supports our camping ministry. Last year, we raised nearly \$4,000 to provide life-changing, faith-strengthening experiences through our church camps. As of mid-April, we have raised about \$600. With the camping season approaching, please consider a gift to support our camping mission.

Budget highlights through March are: Year-to-date net position is a **deficit** (\$19,305), \$4,715 **better** than budget, \$8,537 **better** than last year. Property repair expense is \$11,263 **less** than last year. Snow removal expense is \$7,481 **less** than budget. Cash flow is in good shape.

Capital Savings Money Market balance: \$36,377

Endowment balance: \$822,866

Mortgage balance: \$600,576

The full March 31, 2026, year-to-date budget report is posted on the bulletin board. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC TOM KRAUSE



Music Celebration Sunday, May 17th.

All the music ensembles, Adult Choir, Celebration Ringers and King's Choir will offer some of their favorite music that they have done this past year, September through May. The groups have voted and you will be able to hear their favs before they go on their summer break.

Come and hear, what they believe, was some of their best "musical sermons" that they shared with you through out the year. They will share them at both the 8:00 and 10:00 services. You may even hear some holiday music to bring back some warm memories.

Thank you for your support of East Side Lutheran's music ensembles.

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

PRESENTED BY:



VS



WAGGIN' WEDNESDAY

PRESENTED BY: mini-critters

Faith & Family Night – Join Us June 17th!

Mark your calendars for a fun and faith-filled evening together! This year's Faith & Family Night is scheduled for Wednesday June 17th, with first pitch at 6:35pm. It's a wonderful opportunity for our church family to enjoy fellowship, community, and a great night of baseball.

We're excited to once again take part in the special match program that has been a highlight of past events. Churches that purchase 25 or more tickets at just \$10 each will receive an equal number of tickets at no additional cost, thanks to the Canaries Community Fund. Even better, we have received a Thrivent grant that will cover the cost of 25 tickets—making this a great chance to invite friends, neighbors, and family members to join us!

Before the game, we'll gather for a tailgate in the parking lot starting at 5:00pm. Come early to enjoy food, conversation, and time together before

heading into the game.

If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Don't miss this great opportunity for fellowship, outreach, and fun—we hope to see you there!

COUNCIL MINUTES — KIM TRAVERS

East Side Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2026

Present: Ray Schut, Brian Ensberg, Gwen Oakland, Janelle Songstad, Brenda Schut, Kimberly Travers, Danielle Champa. Excused Absence: Carla Midden, Todd Brower, Pastor Layne Nelson

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:11 am. Gwen Oakland moved to accept the agenda without changes. Danielle Champa seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Devotions – The Church Council said the Lord’s Prayer.

Secretary’s Report: Treasurer Ensberg recommended one change to the March 15, 2026 minutes regarding the Treasurer’s Report section. Secretary Travers will make the update and resend the minutes. Gwen Oakland moved to accept the March 15, 2026 Council meeting minutes inclusive of that change. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

President’s Report: President Schut reported that Pastor Layne Nelson is currently on sabbatical.

Pastor’s Report: No written report for this Council meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported the Year-to-Date Net position through March is a deficit (\$19,305). March 2026 numbers show \$4,715 better than budget. Repair expense is \$11,263 less than last year’s actual (no boiler). Snow removal expense is \$7,481 less than budget. A generous \$500 gift was received in April for the kitchen project. Cash flow is in good shape. Capital Savings Money Market balance: \$36,377; Endowment balance: \$822,866; and the Mortgage balance: \$600,576. Gwen Oakland moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Danielle Champa seconded. Motion carried.

Cell Tower Update: All cell tower paperwork was submitted to American Tower on 3/23/2026. On 4/16/2026, American Tower requested one more form to be signed by ESLC’s mortgage lending institution. (Subordination and non-disturbance agreement. SNDA). The bank needs to sign so that if there ever was a foreclosure of the mortgage American Tower shall not be named as a defendant. The SNDA assures us that the tower agreement is not affected by any foreclosure. Greg Starnes is working through this added form request. The SNDA form is a normal form for American Tower, and we expect to be able to comply.

Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Stewardship Taskforce – Janelle Songstad reported that Stewardship had a Zoom meeting with the GSB contractor.

Education – Gwen Oakland reported the Eggstravaganza went well with over 80 participants. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for preparing and serving breakfast! Confirmation students will have the annual quiz bowl on April 22nd. The last night of confirmation is April 29th, and planned activities include games, firepit, and smores. High School senior recognition is May 3rd. ESLC has nine seniors this year. Thank you to the quilters for providing each senior with a quilt. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for preparing and serving brunch between services. May 10th is the final day of Sunday school. Their milestone projects will be displayed in the Narthex. Everyone is invited to Frisbee golf at Tuthill Park at 2pm on May 17th. The ESLC lock-in is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th, and 10 youth are expected. The lock-in activities include games, food, crafts, devotions, and watching a movie. There will be one night of Vacation Bible School in July 2026.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



Sunday School will be wrapping up on Mother’s Day, Sunday May 10th. This Sunday School year has flown by with a great group of Children blessing us with their presence each Sunday. We have seen these children grow in their understanding and love of Jesus through the guidance of their Teachers. We were blessed with seeing baptisms during the children’s message this year. It was a great talking point during our Sunday School class each time.

On Palm Sunday our 5th grade class, under the direction of Nona Bixler, was taught how to make unleavened bread that was used for their First Communion.



Palm Sunday was such a spectacular sight to see the entire congregation with their palm branches following the choirs and Sunday School children into the sanctuary.

May 3rd through May 10th the Sunday School will display our Milestone projects in the Narthex. Please stop by to see what each grade achieved during the Sunday School year. A special Thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Substitute Teachers and Confirmation helpers. We are a small but mighty team who share our love of God with our students.

We are in the planning stage for a one evening Family Vacation Bible School on July 7th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM with dinner starting at 5:30 PM that evening. Watch for further information in the June newsletter.

Mark Your Calendars

May 3rd - Milestone projects displayed in Narthex.

May 10th - Last day of Sunday School

July 7th - ESL Family Vacation Bible School - 6:00-8:00 PM

It Takes ALL of US!!



Our annual Eggstravaganza was a fantastic time and was attended by over one hundred children and adults. Thanks to donations of candy & egg bakes from our congregation along with Thrivent action grants a fun time was had by all. This event was once again planned by the Education Task Force with the help from the Fellowship Committee taking on the kitchen duties. Pastor Layne did a wonderful job with the Easter children’s message. We appreciate



help from our Sunday School teachers, parents & confirmation students who helped with the egg hunt duties.

Thank you to everyone for their loving support of our Wednesday evening suppers. From donating gift cards, planning, shopping, cooking, serving and cleaning up. We had a lot of full bellies ready to tackle Wednesday evening classes and rehearsals.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 May Day	2 9:30 am Altar Guild 5:30 pm Worship
3 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Senior Recognition	4	5 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	6 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Adult Choir	7 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6pm Food To You Distribution	8	9 5:30 pm Worship
10 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Last Day of Sunday School	11 9:00 am Quilters	12 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	13 9:00 am CHARIS Board Meeting 11:30 am WELCA Board Meeting 1:00 pm WELCA Bible Study 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Adult Choir	14 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	15	16 5:30 pm Worship
17 8:00&10:00 Worship 10:00 Welcome New Members Music Celebrate 2-4pm Frisbee Golf—Tuthill	18	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 & 10:00 Worship 31 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	25 Office Closed Memorial Day	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

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported that the sign-up sheet for Faith and Family at the Canaries has been posted. She is working on two Thrivent grants - one for tickets and one for tailgating. She has secured one grant for tickets and will meet with Brad Larson for assistance. The Evangelism Committee will meet in May - no date established yet. Contributions for camp scholarships seem light compared to last year.

Property – Todd Brower reported that Swift is doing the final shutdown of boiler. The sprinkler system will be fired up on May 1st. Still looking into motion lighting options around the outside air conditioning units to provide a layer of security. Flooring in the kitchen will be completed late this Summer.

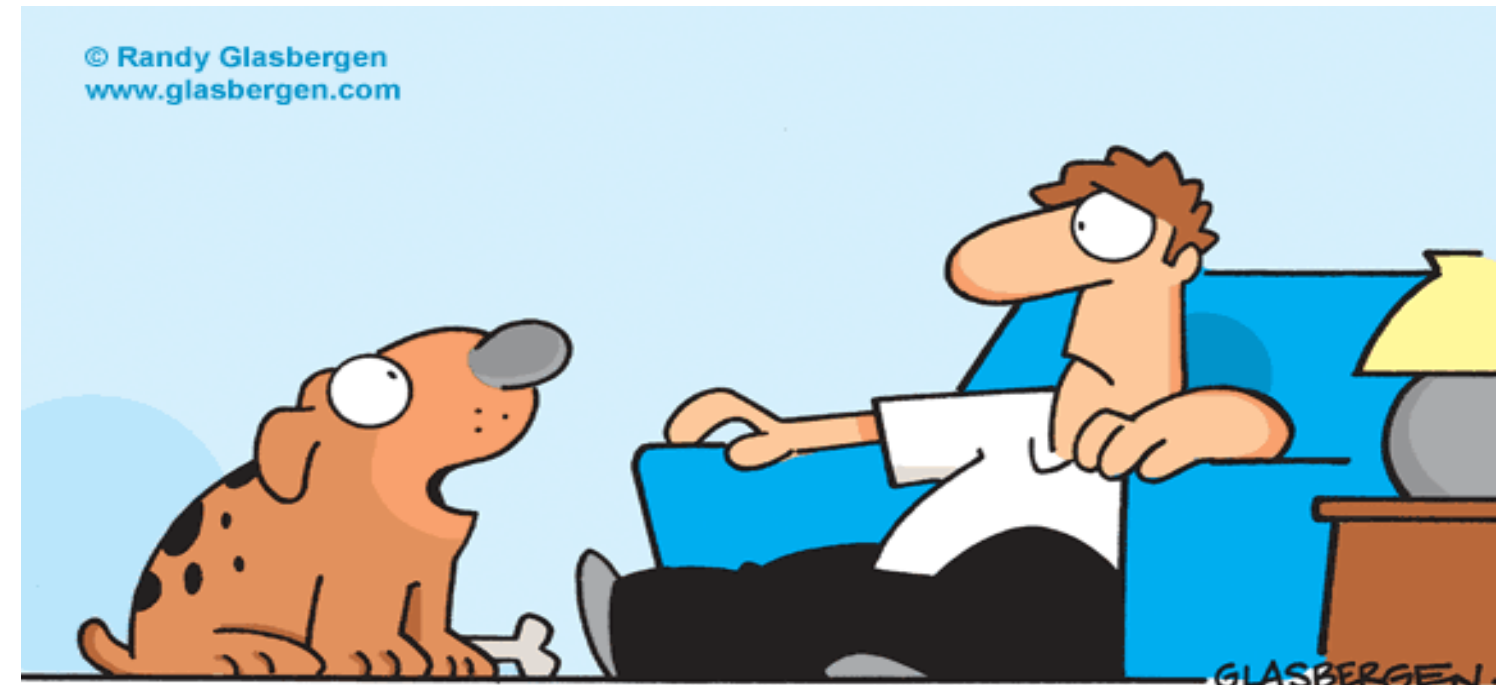
New Business:

Mortgage Reduction – President Schut said ESLC is considering re-engaging with GSB for assistance with the mortgage debt reduction and the annual giving campaign

Other Business – None.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2026, at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
 Kimberly Travers, Secretary



“Cheer up. Your life isn’t meaningless. God put you on this earth for a purpose... to buy dog food and clean up after me.”

WELCA HAPPENINGS—SHIRLEY SUNDEM & BARBARA ANDERSON

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

WELCA Spring Luncheon Program
Featuring Music, Scripture, and Reflection



WELCA held their spring luncheon on Saturday, April 11th with over 100 women in attendance. The program was provided by Karin Renner-Brendtro who is Nancy Renner's daughter-in-law and focused on faithful hands. Music was provided by Gary Brendtro, Barb Boone-Graves and Emmet Hruby. Lunch and fellowship was served prior to the program. A **BIG** thank you to all of the men who worked in the kitchen helping so that all of the women could sit back and relax.

Our next WELCA Bible Study will be held on Wednesday May 13th at 1pm. All women are encouraged and welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you.



EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



Welcoming New Life Among Us – May 17th

Evangelism is often thought of as something distant or difficult—something reserved for pastors or missionaries. But at its heart, evangelism is simply sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our everyday lives. It happens in conversations, in acts of kindness, in invitations, and in the way we reflect Christ's love to those around us.

On May 17th, we have a special opportunity to celebrate this calling together as we welcome new members into the family at East Side Lutheran. Each new member represents a story—of faith, of searching, of God's grace at work. Their presence reminds us that the Holy Spirit is still moving, still calling people into community, and still growing the Church.

As we prepare for this joyful day, consider how you might take part in this mission. Is there someone in your life who could use an invitation? A neighbor, friend, or coworker who is searching for hope or belonging? Evangelism doesn't require perfect words—just a willing heart.

Let us also be intentional in how we welcome those joining us. A warm greeting, a shared conversation, or a simple act of hospitality can make a lasting impact. Together, we can reflect Christ's love in ways that help others feel seen, valued, and at home.

May 17th be more than a date on the calendar—may it be a celebration of God's ongoing work among us and a renewed commitment to sharing His love with the world.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19)

PORTRAIT OF A SPIRITUAL QUEST

Meet Chris & Patti Torbert

"It's the choir," Chris Torbert explained as his reason for coming to East Side Lutheran Church. He sings tenor and choirs can always use a good tenor voice.

In fact, choirs have been a constant attraction for Chris. He has sung with the St. Joseph Cathedral choir as well as other Lutheran Church ensembles around Sioux Falls, He joined the East Side choir in 2024.

Chris' father, Doug Torbert, had been at this church before Patti and Chris started coming here. So when the couple began looking for a new church, Patti deferred to Chris.

Patti stated. He's always gone where I wanted to go, so this time I said, "you pick." And music lead him to East Side and Patti has joined him.

When Chris graduated from the University of South Dakota in the mid-1980's his interest in singing lead him to audition for an international traveling choir, "Up With People". He was accepted in the 1987 choir and sang across parts of North America and northern Europe.



Before joining the international group Chris studied computer science as an under graduate at the University of South Dakota.

"But I never touched the internet then." said Chris. That revolutionary communication link was still in the making. Yet the background gave him a place in finance that was integrating its way of doing business with a computer's capability.

The computer skills and finance experience carved out a fit as a project manager at the Earth Resources Observation Science Center (EROS) north of Sioux Falls, Chris left the job last year and has explored options of early retirement. Patti had also retired as an administrator and counselor at Washington High School. With both at home at the same time, Chris discovered he had time and space to explore another talent: Woodworking.

"I built a cedar strip canoe. I made some mistakes but I learned from them," he said. He's back in the workshop doing another one and creating a workspace with tools where they should be and a workbench that inspires order not chaos....like a good piece of music well sung by a choir.

Thank You

Your East Side Altar Guild would like to thank everyone who made a donation during the Easter season. We are grateful for all of the contributions as they have helped us to update the décor and decorate the sanctuary for all seasons and for all to enjoy.

