

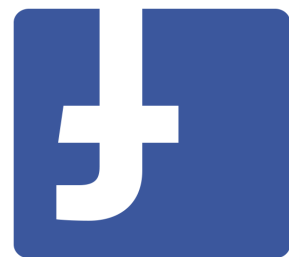


East Side Lutheran Church  
 1300 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796  
[www.eastsidelc.org](http://www.eastsidelc.org)

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 1041  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**June 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 6**

*of East Side Lutheran Church*

**June 2026**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“What brought you to East Side?”

This is a question I enjoy asking people, as it usually leads to me being able to hear their stories of faith. And one thing I have found, we all have a story to tell.

As of the day I write this, we have just received 8 new households into membership in our congregation. It is so *wonderful* to welcome people into our community of faith. There is an excitement of how God’s Holy Spirit might be at work in their lives, and in the life of our congregation as a part of their participation. I encourage you to share a smile and make them feel welcome.

I also invite you to think back to what it was like when you joined the congregation....

- Why did you join?
- What was the experience like?
- Who played a role in that process for you?
- Do you still have contact with that person?

Perhaps you still have contact with them and see them in the pews with you today.

There is a lesson in this.

Chances are the things that drew you to this place, are also important for others. This brings with it a wonderful chance to be witnesses of our faith. Sometimes it simply involves taking a chance to risk greeting someone and letting them know they are welcome in this place. Often a genuine smile and a greeting are all that is needed for the seeds of the Holy Spirit to begin to sprout and grow roots in the life of someone in need of community.

When you come to worship next week, pay attention to the top of your bulletin. There you will find the words: “*Welcoming All, Serving Others, Growing in Faith*”. These are the core values of this congregation from our last strategic plan. Years later they still guide us in living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. Through the nudging of the Holy Spirit, we can all be witnesses to others for Jesus.

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

**\$\$ Looking Ahead \$\$**

Building on the pending sale of our tower lease, and with encouragement from members, East Side is motivated to becoming debt free. Doesn’t that sound like an amazing goal?! To help us in this process, we will be combining our 2027 stewardship appeal with a debt reduction appeal. Look for more information to come. And begin to pray about how you might be called to participate.



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597 [www.eastsidelc.org](http://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



11:00am on KXRB Radio

(1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

**Sponsorships**

**\$255/Sunday!**

### Online Sponsorships



ESL FaceBook and YouTube

**Sponsorships**

**\$50/Sunday!**

**Honor someone you love and spread the Word**



**Baptized  
We  
Live**



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**

**Helen Friedbauer** given by

- Mike & Marie Metli

*(Gifts received as of May 27<sup>th</sup>)*

# UPCOMING



June 17	Family Night—SF Canaries 6:35 pm
July 7	ESL Vacation Bible School 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Aug 8	Youth Lock-In 8:00pm-7:30am
Oct 4	“Church on the Bus” <b>Vikings vs Dolphins</b>



### THANK YOU

To everyone who participated in Music Sunday.

The JOY of the Lord was heard in this place!



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES — DANIELLE CHAMPA



### Food for the Soul

East Side hosted Food to You the Mobile Food Pantry on May 7th.

A new church camp display table was put up in the narthex in hopes of drawing in more donations to send our youth to camp this summer... And our church community responded. Almost \$4,000 was raised to help send our East Side youth to camp!! Your generosity is amazing. Thank you!

In other news, we are looking for a date/time for a behind the scenes tour of the Banquet.

# Welcome New Members



Billy Gregg



Mary Hall



James and Janice  
Weinkauf



Caden Moe



Steve Johnson



Katherine "Kat"  
Newman



Susan Johnson



Kimberly, Trinity,  
and Sophie Stamp

## TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG

### Financially Speaking



As of April 30, 2026, we are on track for a balanced budget with overall revenue up from last year and expenses less than last year. Our total net position is a deficit of (\$13,051) which is \$16,769 better than the budget and \$16,103 better than last year. Total contributions [are](#) up 3.5%, and our recent camp appeal achieved our goal of \$4,000 to help young people go [to camp](#). Thank you for your generosity!

On the expense side, repairs and maintenance are \$15,360 **less** than last year. This expense saving is a result of replacing our boiler with a new, efficient forced air heating system for the sanctuary. All other expense categories are in line with the budget. Summer months usually see lower attendance and offerings, so we plan accordingly. Successful expense control has put us in a good budget position so far. Anything we can do as a congregation to financially support East Side during the summer is important and greatly appreciated. The complete year-to-date budget is posted on the Church bulletin board.

At the Annual meeting we approved the sale of the cell tower easement to American Tower. At that time, we announced that the process to complete the deal may take up to six months. We are currently reviewing the precise legal description of the easement area to protect all East Side's land interests. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

## YOUTH NEWS — GWEN OAKLAND



### It was bittersweet to see the school year programs come to an end.

-Congratulations to our 7<sup>th</sup> graders for the victory in the end of year Quiz Bowl. All the students in grades 6-8 did very well. It was our closest one yet.

-The last night of confirmation was April 29<sup>th</sup>. We ended with games, firepit with smores, and fun!

- We had seven graduating Seniors attend senior Sunday.



### FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

PRESENTED BY:



### Faith & Family Night – Join Us June 17<sup>th</sup>!

Mark your calendars for a fun and faith-filled evening together! This year's Faith & Family Night is scheduled for Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

VS



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!

WAGGIN' WEDNESDAY  
PRESENTED BY: **mini-critters**  
...for people who love their pets.

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! Ticket deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## COUNCIL MINUTES — KIM TRAVERS

East Side Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2026

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

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:23am. Carla Midden moved to accept the agenda without changes. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Gwen Oakland moved to accept the April 19, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Schut welcomed Pastor Nelson back from sabbatical.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nelson reported that there were four baptisms in the last two months and four funerals. Eight weddings are scheduled for the summer and fall. Pastor Nelson said that he and Jennifer had a wonderful experience following the footsteps of Paul during his sabbatical. He thanked Pastor Ray Heidenson for serving during that time and for leading men's/women's Bible studies. The Church office will be closed May 25, 2026 for Memorial Day observance. Synod Assembly will take place May 29 - 30, 2026 in Sioux Falls. Pastor Nelson will be gone May 23 - 24, 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported the special Camp appeal was well received. As of May 17, 2026, \$3,974 was raised, compared to \$2,632 at the end of May 2025. Total offerings are up 3.5% over last year. Repair and maintenance costs are down \$15,360 from last year. Year-to-date net position through April 2026 is a deficit (\$13,051). Year-to-date shows ESLC at \$16,769 better than budget and \$16,103 better than 2025. Cash flow is in good shape. The Mortgage balance is \$596,461. Cell tower update: ESLC lawyer is working on a legal description of the easement, to exclude the barn and the garage from the easement. Danielle Champa moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

### New Business:

Summer 2026 Council Meeting Dates: There will not be a Church Council meeting in June 2026. Upcoming Council meetings will be July 12, 2026 and August 23, 2026.

Block Party - The Council discussed options for leadership and involvement opportunities for the annual Block Party. It was discussed that the Block Party should still happen as it gives an opportunity to reach out to ESLC neighbors. The tentative date is August 29, 2026.

### Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Stewardship Taskforce: Janelle Songstad reported that four members of the Stewardship Committee met via Zoom with the GSB consultant on May 14, 2026. There was discussion about the debt reduction appeal considering the current economic climate. GSB outlined a process for identifying and motivating potential donors. Three teams will be organized - an information team, a special events team, and a response team. June 18, 2026 is the kick-off date for these teams to meet with the GSB consultant. There will be a congregational event on November 1, 2026 and Appeal Sunday on November 8, 2026.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



As we closed out the end of the 2025-2026 Sunday School year, good memories were made with all of our Sunday School children and families. We saw a lot of appreciation and hugs shown on the last day of classes along with some tears as we see our 5<sup>th</sup> grade class moving on to Confirmation in the Fall. The Education Task Force will continue to meet on the first Sunday of the Summer months to prepare for the next school year. We are always open to feedback along with ideas from our congregation.

We are currently working on something new for this Summer, on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> there will be an event for all ages, Family Vacation Bible School. Come for a supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm followed by a lesson around 6:00 pm and closing out the evening outside with a campfire, camp songs and smores. Hope to have you join us! Watch for additional information in the coming weeks.

The most important part of this newsletter article is that I want to close out by recognizing our Sunday School Teachers along with our Confirmation Guides. Each of these people have the love of Jesus in their heart and did an outstanding job with their weekly commitment to their classes; we are so blessed.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Summer and hope to see you at the Family Vacation Bible School event on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	3 4:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	4 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Food To You Distribution	5	6 9:30 am Altar Guild 5:30 pm Worship	
7 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	8 9:00 am Quilters	9 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	10 9:00 am CHARIS Board Meeting	11 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	12 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	13 5:30 pm Worship	
14 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	15	16 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	17 Faith and Family Night at the Birdcage Tailgating at 5:30 First Pitch 6:35	18 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	19 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	20 5:30 pm Worship	
21 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Kids leave for camp	22	23 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	24	25 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	26 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	27 5:30 pm Worship	
28 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Tom and Kay Farewell	29 9:00 am Quilters	30 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 7:00 pm Beer & Theology					

*Council minutes continued*

**Education:** Gwen Oakland reported last night of Confirmation was April 29, 2026. Activities included games, firepit with smores, and fun! Seven graduating seniors attend Senior Sunday. The last day of Sunday school was May 10, 2026. The classroom milestones were displayed in the Narthex recently. Upcoming events: May 17th Frisbee golf at Tuthill Park from 2-4pm (weather permitting) and everyone is welcome! July 7th will be a Vacation Bible School night. Supper will be at 5:30pm followed by a lesson, firepit, smores, and camp songs. August 8th is the youth lock-in from 8pm-7:30am.

**Outreach:** Danielle Champa reported that ESLC hosted Food to You Mobile Food Pantry on May 7, 2026. ESLC has received an invitation from The Banquet to get a "behind the scenes" tour, which is being scheduled.

**Evangelism:** Brenda Schut reported new member orientation occurred May 13, 2026. Thanks to Sue Hart for organizing and planning the orientation. Guess "Who is Who" from Senior graduation pictures was well received. June 17th is the Faith and Family baseball game with approximately 60 people signed up. Top content on Facebook this month - the baptisms, senior breakfast, last night of confirmation, and Emma reading at the 10am service. Evangelism Committee is having a meeting on May 20, 2026.

**Fellowship:** Carla Midden reported the final project for the year was the Confirmation Breakfast held for confirmands and their families. It was well attended. The Committee will be meeting to review the past year and determine what events will be sponsored for the upcoming year. Thanks to everyone who serves on the Fellowship committee. Your hard work made this a successful year!

**Property:** Todd Brower gave a Big thank you to Colleen and Pastor Marlin Wangsness and friends for working on North flower bed. Mulch will be added later. Also thank you very much to Roger and Nita Lien for painting the kitchen walls. The kitchen looks great! Flooring replacement is being scheduled. There is no need for a Spring clean up as companies have been hired. The parking lot was swept, snow piles cleaned out, weeds were pulled throughout the premises. As always, if there are any major concerns with property feel free to reach out or leave a note in Todd's box.

**Other Business:** The Church Council discussed the annual bus trip to a Vikings football game in Fall 2026. The date is TBD.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:29pm. The next Council meeting will be held on July 12, 2026 at 11:15am.

Submitted by,  
Kimberly Travers, Secretary

## STEWARDSHIP — JANELLE SONGSTEAD



### We Have A Generous Future

Four members of the Stewardship Taskforce met via Zoom with our consultant, Pete Reus, from GSB on May 14<sup>th</sup>. There was excitement about our annual stewardship appeal for 2027 that will take place later in the year. We will be building three teams for this process. There will be an information team, special events team, and a response team. Tentatively there will be a congregational event on November 1 and appeal Sunday on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



### It Feels Great to be Invited

As summer arrives, schedules begin to fill with vacations, camping trips, ball games, and time spent enjoying the beautiful weather. While summer offers many opportunities for rest and recreation, it's also important to stay connected to our church family and continue growing in faith together.

Worship is not just a winter habit or a school-year routine — it is a vital part of our walk with Christ all year long. Even when travel takes us away for a weekend, we encourage everyone to make worship a priority whenever possible.

Summer is also a wonderful time for hospitality and invitation. If you have family or friends visiting this summer, invite them to join you for worship. A simple invitation can make a lasting impact and help others experience the love and fellowship of our church community.

### Hebrews 10:24-25

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”*

We look forward to worshipping with you all summer long!

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE—CARLA MIDDLEN



### Sending Our High School Seniors

Our final project for the year was the Senior High Breakfast held for the seniors and their families. It was well attended, and brings great joy as we think of how God will work through these young people in the future.

We will be meeting to review the past year and determine what events we will sponsor for the upcoming year. Thanks to everyone who serves on the committee. Your hard work made this a successful year.

## PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT—TODD BROWER



### Thank you all for sharing your gifts, talents, and servant hearts in such meaningful ways!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Nita and Roger Lien and Dee Hohn for the many hours spent cleaning and painting the church kitchen. Your hard work and care are truly appreciated and have helped brighten an important gathering space in our church home.

We also offer sincere thanks to Colleen and Marlin Wangsness and friends for their work in the north flower beds. Your time and effort have added beauty and warmth to our church grounds for all to enjoy.

## 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.*

Gwen Oakland and Gayle Lee do a bit more for the church than just show up on Sunday. For now Gwen works as a confirmation guide and acting youth director. She is in the building at least two times a week during the school season.

“I’m the mean one,” she says, laughing. “I make them behave.” That’s her assessment. It doesn’t match the kind expression on her face.

Gwen’s mother, Gayle Lee, serves as the parish secretary, so she is in the office four days a week and Sundays between services.

For mother and daughter the commitment to East Side came from hardships that needed more than their own resources to manage. Gwen was married at East Side in 1996 but not too long after there was another service, her husband’s funeral, that redefined her relationship with the church and its members. She needed the comfort of a community as well as a pastor.

Gayle followed her daughter to East Side where Gwen was already a member. The East Side community offered support as a difficult marriage began to dissolve.

“At first I wanted to remain invisible, so I sat in the back of the church so I could duck out.”

The urge to flee was first met by not knowing anyone to enjoying the company of many.

The church community became a good fit for what both women needed.

Gwen works in accounting for Sanford Health Systems. Sometimes she is in the office and other times she is able to work from home where there are far fewer distractions throughout the day. “I tend to get more done when I work remotely.”

Gayle, on the other hand, works with distractions all day regulating entry to the campus through the north door, answering the phone and handling the duties offices creates out of necessity and thin air.

Gayle was an early graduate of Kilian Community College where she took classes that prepared her to work in an office. She did well. The college hired her when she graduated.

The East Side community has found many ways to employ the talents of this mother-daughter team.