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

November 2026

WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturdays
5:30 pm
Sundays
8:00 am & 10:00 am

Welcoming All
Serving Others
Growing in Faith

The Voice

of East Side Lutheran Church

Volume 30 Issue 11

November 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1919, when our forbearers founded this congregation, I'm sure they could only dream that it would still be meeting people with grace and forgiveness and a word of hope some 100+ years later. I'm sure they couldn't begin to imagine that this new church on the east side of town would later become a beacon in the very heart of Sioux Falls. And yet, here we are. And while the needs of this community may have changed over time, the need of the people to have lifechanging experiences through the freedom of Jesus Christ is still great.

This fall we are adding something very important to our fall stewardship emphasis; we are conducting an appeal called, Freedom for Ministry. The goal of this appeal is to eliminate our mortgage debt that we have carried for 20+ years. Left unchecked, this burden of debt weighs on us, and I believe it even limits what we can see ourselves doing in ministry. It is time to free ourselves from this debt, for the sake of ministry.

Over the past few weekends you have begun to hear about our Freedom for Ministry appeal. If you have not received them already, materials will soon be coming to you in the mail. I pray that you will join us at our congregational meal on November 1st to learn more and to ask questions (and for some great food and fellowship).

This is an important time for us as a congregation, so most importantly I invite you to pray about how you might participate in our stewardship emphases. In worship on the weekend of November 7 & 8, we will offer our intent cards for both the ministry of the coming year, and the Freedom for Ministry appeal. Let's honor those who have gone before us, and boldly step into the years to come. Remember we are in this...

Together in Faith.

The Voice

This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD. It can also be downloaded on 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 ..... Volunteer Security
Nona Bixler ..... Volunteer
Jackie Swiden...Sunday School Superintendent

Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith ..... Organist
Dr. Tyler Thress..... Music Director
Sister Gretchen Johnston.....*Accompanist*

Workshop 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

November 1 - In honor of all Women given by WELCA



Online Sponsorships

ESL Facebook and YouTube Sponsorships

$50/Sunday

November 1 - In honor of Madeline Rygg's Birthday given by Lloyd & Peggy Nelson

The November Lamplighters meeting will be Tuesday, November 17 at 1:30 pm, at the 701 E. 8th Street building. Attendees will be watching the documentary film 24 Hours on 8th Street.
Each month there is a Love Gift. The Love Gifts for November are: brown sugar, garlic powder, and/or ketchup



Thank you so much for remembering me on Pastor Appreciation Day. I feel truly blessed to be a part of East Side.
Pastor Ray



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
Randy Postma given by
-Judi Eliason
-Doug & Sue Jacobson
Carol Prouty given by
-Nancy Renner
Ramona Moe given by
-Char VanBockern
-Merlin & Barb Goehring
Jim DeSaix given by
-Char VanBockern
-Dave & Nona Bixler
Joe Johansson given by
-Char VanBockern
-Judy Adler
-Reggie & Shelly Huber
-Milt & Sue Jackson
-Rhonda Baker
-Carl & Pam Eliason
-Merlin & Barb Goehring
-Marlyn Haiar
-Michael Menholt
-Marv & Laurie McKnelly
-Linda Ziegler & Lynn Joneson
-Vonda Peterson
-Marlin & Colleen Wangsness
-Char VanBockern
-Wayne & Sue Hart
-Kay Dammer
-Kary Dammer
-Judi Eliason
-Jim & Judy Vollmer
-Carol Thomsen
-Terry & Linda Bornitz
-Dennis & Carol Warwick
-Barbara Anderson
-Ilene Bertelsen

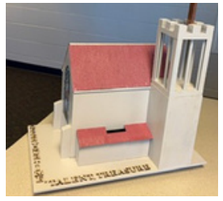
In Memory of
George Boom given by
-Judy Adler
-Judi Eliason



Nov 1	All Saints Sunday
Nov 7	11:00 AM for 6-12 grades
Nov 8	Living Saints Sunday
Nov 8	Consecration Sunday
Nov 25	Thankgiving Eve Service Altar Guild serving pumpkin & apple pie after the service
Dec 2	Advent Services Begin
Dec 5	WELCA Christmas Luncheon 12 noon
Dec 13	Lessons and Carols
Dec 20	Childrens Christmas Program 10:00 am
Feb 7	1-3pm BINGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - JACKIE SWIDEN

Our Sunday School year is quickly going by. It is time to start practicing for our Christmas program which will be help on Sunday December 20th during the 10:00 am church service. It will be followed by our annual cookie fellowship in the fellowship Hall.



We are extremely excited to see the dedication of a wooden church on November 1st during the childrens' message. This church will be used in our Sunday School area for the children to put their offering in each Sunday. We are grateful for Jim Smorada who designed and built the church for us to use for many years to come. Thank you Jim for sharing your time and talents to make us this beautiful church.

Please Note: Having our Sunday school children in church during the first part of the worship service is very important and they can learn about what the church service is all about. The Children's message is a great experience for the children as they prepare to attend Sunday school. They have witnessed baptisms, they hear motivational stories about our lesson, they learn what the stained glass windows are all about and what they represent and there is much more to come.

TREASURERS REPORT- BRIAN ENSBERG

Our Church budget through October is on track. Thank you for your continued generosity! This year for November and December we need approximately $52,000 more revenue than expense to meet our financial commitment.The good news is that our $32,300 endowment distribution will be taken this November as planned. So, we are well on our way. Total contributions needed are $145,000. Please, prayerfully consider your fall giving so we can end the year on solid ground.
Please take notice of the Church Council Minutes in this newsletter. The Treasurer's report details our financial position as well as all balances in our various accounts. The October 31, 2026 year-to-date budget summary is posted on the bulletin board. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a group made up of women who come together each week and prepare communion for all three worship services. They change the paraments and decorate the Sanctuary.
In October the group coordinated the cleaning of the Sanctuary.
This month they will be serving apple and pumpkin pie after the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25th.
All are invited to enjoy pie and fellowship in the fellowship hall.
Soon preparations for the Christmas season will begin. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group contact Char VanBockern.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - CARLA MIDDLEN

The fellowship Committee hosted a brunch for the confirmands and their parents. This took place on Sunday, October 25th in the Fellowship Hall.
Mark your calendars for a fun afternoon of BINGO on Sunday, February 7th from 1-3pm. We are in need of new and/or gently used items for prizes. We also are looking for gift cards from your favorite establishments for food or entertainment. Many business's will donate a gift card to a church if a patron asks for a donation. Consider asking or purchasing one for a donation. Donations can be dropped off at the church office during business hours or between worship services on Sunday.



WELCA NEWS - SHIRLEY SUNDEM & BARBARA ANDERSON

WELCA has some important dates that they would like to share with all women of the congregation as all are invited to take part in these fun events.

- On Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11th we will be holding a board meeting at 11:30 followed by a Bible study at 1:00pm at which time a "Thank Offering" will be collected.

What is a "Thank Offering"?
Christian women in the late 1800s formed "cent" societies to support the mission of the church.
In the Lutheran tradition, the General Synod's Women's Home & Foreign Missionary Society created their first Thankoffering Service in 1889. To show daily gratitude, Lutheran women placed small boxes in their homes as a physical reminder of daily blessings. Coin offerings were for a specific blessing.
Mark 12:41-44, the story Jesus told of the widow who gave her last coin, was an influence on this idea of thank offerings. The tradition evolved as a way for women to support church projects.
Today ELCA women's groups collect these offerings in November to fund churchwide ministries, leadership training, global programs, etc. and collect more than $1 million in Thank Offering annually.

- Saturday, December 5th at 12 noon WELCA is sponsoring a Christmas luncheon. This will also be the day that we will draw for the winners of the raffle gift baskets.

We will be serving Advent Supper on Wednesday, December 16th prior to the Advent Service. There will be a sign-up sheet for workers and for providing food in the near future.

POTRAIT OF A SPIRITUAL QUEST - CHAMPA FAMILY



Author's Notes: *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 insignt, a bit of inspiration or answer a quession you've wanted to ask*

Danielle, Andrew and Estley Champa come to Sunday worship as a trio. Danielle and Andrew remain in the pew but their son does not. He helps with the business of the Sunday service and then sits down. Estley, a sixth grader at Ben Reifel Middle School, stands out at an early service simply because he is often the youngest worshipper in the house. And he seems comfortable with his status.

This is Estley's first year playing tackle football. He has a solid build and seems suited for the game. And what does he like about the game? "I get to hit people," he says with a perfectly straight face and a hint of a smile. He also plays drums. There is a hint of a theme here.

The Champas join a substantial subgroup of East Side Lutheran Church members: like many others they moved from North Dakota to Sioux Falls. Danielle and Andrew met in Dickenson, North Dakota and were married in 2007 at St. John Lutheran before moving to Sioux Falls, in 2011.

Both Danielle and Andrew came from traditions that counted Sunday church attendance non negotiable. Andrew, like his son, learned to play a role in worship and as a boy he served as an acolyte.

As with other members of East Side, when they arrived in Sioux Falls they began looking for a church. They found the welcome engaging. " When we arrived someone would show us around. Finally, a church member said: "You have been coming to church for a while, when are you going to become a new member?"

It was a good question and invitation built into one sentence. The Champas knew they preferred a traditional service in an ELCA church. They knew they wanted an active parish that offered volunteer opportunities. Danielle noted the Food to You Program fit that category. And they liked the traditional building.

East Side in Sioux Falls and St. John in Dickinson look hauntingly similar at first glance. It became a good fit and clear choice.

Congratulations to our 9th Grade Confirmands



On Sunday, October 25th our ninth graders reafirmed their faith with their families and the East Side Lutheran congregation present.

Pictured from left to right:

Baylee Stone, Kaytlyn Olson, Treyson Kuhnert, Amelia Bolton

Not pictured: Annalise Hugelman & Alex Fey

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - RAY SCHUT

Freedom for Ministry: A Vision for a Debt-Free Future

Every great vision begins with faith, grows through prayer, and becomes a reality when people unite around a common purpose. As a church family, we are embarking on an exciting and faith-filled journey through our Freedom for Ministry campaign, with one clear goal in mind: to retire our church's mortgage debt and open the door to greater ministry opportunities for the future.

This campaign is about much more than paying off a building. It is about investing in the mission God has entrusted to us and positioning our church to serve more effectively, reach more people, and make a greater impact in our community and beyond.

Imagine what we could accomplish with fewer financial obligations and greater resources available to support ministry. Imagine the possibilities for reaching families, supporting children and youth, caring for those in need, strengthening our congregation, and sharing the love of Christ with people who may never have walked through our doors. By eliminating our mortgage debt, we can create greater financial flexibility to pursue new opportunities and respond to the needs God places before us. That is the heart of Freedom for Ministry: creating the freedom to extend, increase, expand, and establish new ministries both inside and outside the walls of our church.

We are especially grateful for the generosity and commitment of one of our church members who has agreed to cover the interest payments on our mortgage for the entire year of 2027. This extraordinary commitment provides us with a meaningful opportunity to focus our collective efforts on reducing the principal balance of our mortgage.

Every gift given to the Freedom for Ministry campaign will go directly toward the principal of our mortgage. This means that each contribution will help reduce the debt itself, bringing us closer to the day when our church can celebrate being mortgage-free.

We invite every member of our church family to prayerfully consider participating in this important endeavor. No matter the size of the gift, every contribution represents a personal investment in our shared mission and the generations who will worship, grow, serve, and find hope through this ministry.

As we move forward together, let us give with faith, gratitude, and expectation. Let us believe that what we accomplish today will create opportunities for ministry tomorrow. Freedom for Ministry is more than a campaign to eliminate debt. It is a commitment to the future God is calling us to build together. Through prayer, generosity, unity, and faithful stewardship, we can retire our mortgage and help ensure that our greatest resources are directed toward our greatest calling: ministry to people, for the glory of God.

Please join us on Sunday, November 1st at 11:15 (right after the 10:00 worship service) for a congregational lunch served in the Fellowship Hall. A catered lunch and a short message about our "Freedom for Ministry" will be shared. You do not want to miss this.

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 9:15 Kings Choir 11:15 Congregational Meal	**2**	**3** 10:00 am St Arbucks in the Fellowship Hall	**4** 5:45 Bells 6:00 Supper Scalloped Potatoes & Ham 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	**5** 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Food to You	**6**	**7** 9:30 am Altar Guild 5:30pm Worship **8:00 pm Youth Lock-in drop off**
8 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 9:15 Kings Choir Living Saints Recognition Between services	**9**	**10** 10:00 am St Arbucks in the Barn	**11** 11:30 am WELCA Board 1:00 pm WELCA Bible Study 5:45 Bells 6:00 Supper 6:45Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	**12** 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	**13**	**14** 5:30pm Worship
15 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 9:15 Kings Choir	**16**	**17** 10:00 am St Arbucks in the Barn	**18** 5:45 Bells 6:00 Supper Soup 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	**19** 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	**20**	**21** 5:30pm Worship
22 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 9:15 Kings Choir 11:15 am Thanks for Giving Meal	**23**	**24** 10:00 am St Arbucks in the Barn	**25** 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service Pie Served by the Altar Guild after the worship service	**26** Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	**27** Office Closed	**28** 5:30pm Worship
29 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship						

St. Arbucks is sponsoring a Basket Raffle!

We invite anyone to create a theme basket, using a basket or other container and fill it with as many items as you want – unique, gently used, brand new, homemade.
For example – a Christmas basket could include ornaments, wrapping paper, a candle and mug, and a Christmas CD.

– Be creative and have fun! –



Bring your basket to church by Tuesday, November 3rd so they can be displayed for a few weekends. Raffle tickets will be on sale for $1 or 10 for $5. Then place the raffle ticket with your name and phone number written on it, in any tub by the basket(s) you would like to win..

The final drawing will be at our Women's Christmas Luncheon December 5. You do not need to be present to win. All raffle proceeds will go toward the 2026 Garage Sale totals. Any questions contact Dee Hohn, Colleen Wangsness, Barb Goehring or Gail Ensberg

A Little Warmth Goes A Long Way!

As the weather turns colder, we often have people stopping by East Side's doors. Many are simply looking for a warm place to escape the cold. Sometimes, a little extra warmth can make a big difference, and we want to be ready to help!
We are running low on hats, gloves, and socks to share with our neighbors. Would you consider donating new or gently used adult hats and gloves, or packages of warm socks? Most of the people who stop by are adults, so we are especially in need of men's and women's sizes.
Occasionally, someone also asks for a blanket. If you have a blanket you would be willing to donate, please consider sharing it with us. These blankets may not always be kept long-term, but they can provide much-needed warmth when it matters most.
Donations can be dropped off under the mail boxes or the church office. Thank you for considering how you can help care for our neighbors this season. Every donation, big or small, helps us continue our mission to be “in the neighborhood for good.”



East Side Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes — October 18, 2026

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

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:28am. Carla Middlen moved to accept the agenda without changes. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Nelson discussed a passage from the Christ in Our Home booklet and offered prayer to open the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Todd Brower moved to accept the September 20, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented. Treasurer Ensberg seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Schut discussed a few of the many upcoming events, such as the Thanks-for-Giving meal. Council members will serve this meal, which is on November 22nd. The menu was discussed. A Thrivent grant will help with the meal costs.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nelson reported there have been two weddings and one funeral since the last Council meeting. Blessing of the Animals worship went well on September 26th. The Church on the Bus trip was once again a great success! The 10AM Thursday Women's Bible Study is now a Co-Ed Bible Study. The next New Member Reception will be February 7, 2027. Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall, followed by pie served by the Altar Guild. A kids table will soon be available at the back of the church sanctuary. Confirmation and Reformation Sunday is Oct 25th. All Saints Sunday is Nov 1st. The "Freedom for Ministry" stewardship campaign is under way. This is a significant appeal for the life of the ESLC congregation to free us from debt and free us for ministry.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported the following:

Mortgage impact:

•The current annual mortgage payment is $71,892.

•As of August 2026, the mortgage balance was $579,876.

•As of August 2026, the mortgage payoff date was May 2036.

In September 2026, the cell tower easement was sold, and $140,000 was applied to the mortgage principal. As a result:

•$50,612 in interest payments will be saved.

•The mortgage payment date is now September 2033.

•As of September 2026, the mortgage balance = $435,697

•The 2027 interest on the mortgage is: $14,842

▪ As of October 18, 2026, the funds needed to retire this debt = $450,539

2026 Budget:

•Year-to-date through September, the net position is a deficit ($34,747).

•Year-to-date through September, ESLC position is $10,816 better than budget.

•Year-to-date through September, ESLC position is $2,962 better than last year.

•As of September 30, 2026, the Endowment balance is $982,446.

•As of September 30, 2026, the Mortgage balance is $435,697.

•As of September 30,2026, the Capital Savings Money Market balance is $116,620.

Gwen Oakland moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

Business

Budget Considerations for 2027: The Council reviewed a new draft working document - "Major Replacement Schedule". Todd Brower discussed the intent of this document with the Council. This is a planning document that will be iterated to help with future planning and budgeting.

Wedding Pricing for 2027:Pastor Nelson discussed a proposal to increase the price of a member wedding from $600 to $800. Non-member weddings are $1,600, and this price was recently adjusted. Treasurer Ensberg made the motion to accept this proposal for member weddings. Todd Brower seconded. Motion passed.

Stewardship Campaign Progress and Congregational Meal: Janelle Songstad said that the small group meal on October 15th went well. November 1st is the date for the congregational meal.

Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Stewardship Task Force: The small group gathering at the Sioux Falls History Club on Thursday, October 15th was attended by 17 people. Work continues for the congregational event on November 1st. Nona Bixler has agreed to take the lead on that event.

Education: Gwen Oakland reported the Confirmation students went to Kids Against Hunger on Oct 14th. A total of 6,714 meals were packed!

Reformation Sunday is October 25th. There will be four 9th graders confirmed on that day. Two other 9th graders will be confirmed at a later date due to being out of town. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for serving breakfast to the confirmands and their families!

ESLC anticipates 6 students attending the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2027.

Sunday School: Pre-K and 3rd graders received their Bibles on Sept 27th. The Christmas program will be held on Dec 20th.

Upcoming Events:

Pirates Plunder Oct 18th at 2pm - Everyone is invited; Oct. 24th - Trunk or Treat 2-4pm in the East parking lot; Nov 7th-8th from 8pm-7:30am is the Lock-in for 6th-12th graders.

Outreach: Danielle Champa reported ESLC was the host and sponsor for the Food to You distribution this month. Thank you to all of the volunteers!

On Saturday, November 14th, ESLC is sponsoring a meal for Church on the Street and will need to feed 250+ people. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will supply the dessert.

20 volunteers are needed. It starts at 10:00am. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers and for meal donations on the church bulletin board.

Evangelism: Brenda Schut reported the Living Saints Celebration will be held on November 8th. Invites have been mailed to all members age 80+, which is approximately 130 postcards.The Evangelism Committee will serve muffins and fruit between services with a short message from Pastor Layne and possibly Pastor Ray and Brenda on the topic of a living legacy of faith.

A recent ESLC Facebook post on the topic of "we welcome children in church" had tremendous response - 1264 interactions (reactions and comments combined), 194 shares of the post, 25 new followers to ESLC page, and 90,070 views. 87,405 of these were not followers of our page. This goes to show the power of a shared post.

Fellowship: Carla Middlen reported planning of the confirmation and graduation brunches by the Fellowship Committee. Bingo will be held in the near future.

Property: Todd Brower reported Midwest Mechanical checked the Church sprinkler system. Everything is OK. Pye Barker, formally Justice Fire, checked the fire extinguishers. All is well. While on a tour of the basement with St. Arbucks, it was noticed that the sump pump was not working. A new sump pump has been installed by Swift Air. The west entry doors were not locking correctly, so Heartland Glass adjusted all three entry doors. Wayne Wosje and Todd Brower did a walk-through with Brions Electric by adding a security light on the west side of building and replacing bulbs in parking lot lights, along with other miscellaneous work. ESLC lawn has been aerated, and the sprinkler system has been blown out. Anti-fatigue mats have been purchased for the kitchen. Thank you to St. Arbucks. After a meeting with St. Arbucks, it was determined that they would like one ceiling fan installed in garage, new carpet squares in west and east entrances, and new carpet in large area and basement. Brian Ensberg, Coleen Wangsness, and Todd Brower met to discuss and begin pre-planning regarding the church mechanics, furnaces, air conditioners, and parking lot updates.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:37pm. The next Council meeting will be held on November 15, 2026 at 11:15am.