

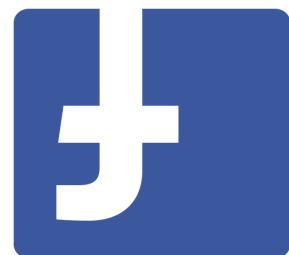


East Side Lutheran Church
1300 East 10th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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September 2026



8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sundays

5:30 pm

Saturdays

WORSHIP SERVICES



Volume 30 Issue 9

The Voice

of East Side Lutheran Church

Welcoming All
Serving Others
Growing in Faith

September 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am “back in black” after being away for a few weeks of sabbatical time. I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the Council and to the Congregation for the gift of this time. It was wonderful! My time in April was exhilarating and so helpful in my growing understanding of the Apostle Paul and the New Testament. My time in summer was renewing and energizing. In both, I continued growing in self-understanding, and in gratitude for the people whom God has placed in my life... and that includes you! Both Jennifer and I are so grateful for your love and support.

Looking to fall at ESL...

As teachers return to classrooms and students fill their backpacks, the change of season also brings changes at church.

Rally Sunday is September 13th. Come and be a part of the excitement.

If you have not yet had the chance to meet Tyler, our new Music Director, I invite you to introduce yourself to him. I believe you will find in him a freshness and a great love of music and respect for voices of all abilities. Our Adult Choir and Handbell Choir resume on Wednesday September 9th, our Kings Choir (youth) resumes rehearsals at 9:15am on Sunday September 13th. Come and let your voice be heard.

Confirmation for grades 6-9 also resumes September 9th, and meals will be lovingly served by Carla and Jackie each Wednesday from 6-6:45pm.

Keep your eye on your email for some pop-up local hiking opportunities this fall.

There is still time to get your tickets for our annual Church on the Bus. This year we travel to US Bank Stadium on Oct 4th to see the Vikings and the Dolphins.

This fall we also be introducing our annual stewardship drive that this year includes a component for us to reduce and possibly eliminate the mortgage. This has the potential to change ministry here in many ways!!

How might God be stirring in your hearts even now? God is at work in this place, and I am thrilled to be a part of it with you. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

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. Tyler Thress. Music Director

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

September 6—In memory of Bill & Alice Kruse
Anniversary given by their daughter

September 13—In member of Marvin &
Helen Mueller Wedding Anniversary given by
Jan Nelson & siblings

September 27—In honor of Sunday School
Teachers and Children given by Jackie
Swiden



Online Sponsorships

ESL Facebook and
YouTube
Sponsorships

\$50/Sunday

September 6—In honor of Reggie & Shelly
Huber's 50th Wedding Anniversary by Stacy
Sturma



Join us on Thursday, October 1st

East Side Lutheran is the sponsor for Food To
You—Volunteers are need to set up for the
event and also help to serve guests Sign up
sheet is outside of the church office.



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

Harlan Hartman given by

- Lynette Hartman

In Honor of

Don Salberg's birthday given by

- Kay Dammer

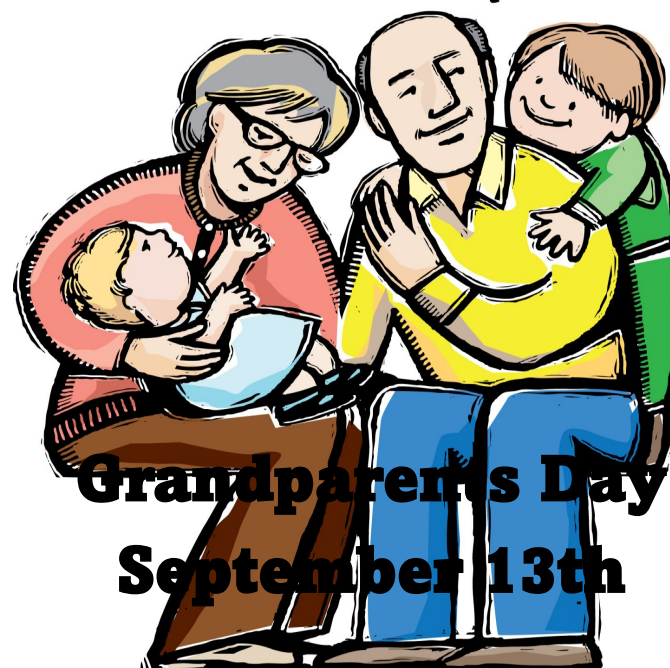
- Kary Dammer

Marlin Wangsness's birthday given by

- Marv & Laurie McKnelly

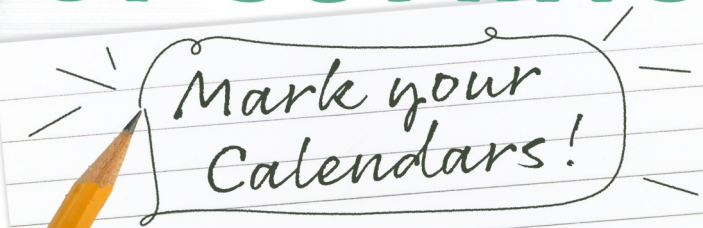
(Gifts received as of August 27th)

Grandparents Are a Gift



**Grandparents Day
September 13th**

UPCOMING



Sept. 6	Lifelight
Sept. 7	Labor Day—Office Closed
Sept. 9	Confirmation resumes—7pm
Sept. 9	Bells & Adult Choir Resumes
Sept. 10-12	Rummage Sale
Sept. 13	Rally Sunday
Sept. 13	Kings Choir Begins
Sept. 13	Grandparents Day
Sept. 29	Beer & Theology—Remedy Brewing Company 7pm
Oct. 4	"Church on the Bus" Vikings vs Dolphins
Oct. 24	Trunk or Treat
Oct. 27	Beer & Theology—Remedy Brewing Company 7pm



Volunteers are needed to help with the
Wednesday night meals or provide dessert.
Sign up sheet is in the kitchen on the refrigerator.

EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



Being in the Neighborhood for Good

When we hear the word *evangelism*, we might picture standing on a street corner talking about our faith or inviting someone to church. But evangelism can be much simpler than that. Evangelism is sharing God’s love through the way we live, serve, welcome, and connect with the people around us.

At East Side Lutheran, our motto is “In the Neighborhood for Good.” Our recent and upcoming events are wonderful examples of what that looks like.

Our Church Block Party gives us an opportunity to open our doors, welcome our neighbors, share some fun, and simply get to know the people around us. Our booth at the LifeLight Festival allows us to be present in the community, meet new people, and let others know that there is a place at East Side Lutheran where they are welcome. And our church-run and sponsored Rummage Sale is another way we can serve our neighborhood while building relationships and supporting one another.

None of these events require us to have all the right words or give a sermon. Sometimes evangelism is simply showing up, saying hello, listening to someone’s story, offering a helping hand, and making someone feel welcome.

And, as always, we need volunteers! Events like these only happen because people are willing to give their time, lend a hand, and be part of the fun. There is still time to join in and help with these opportunities. Whether you can help set up, serve, greet people, work a booth, or simply be there with a smile, there is a place for you.

As we participate in these events, let’s remember that we are not just planning activities—we are living out our mission: being in the neighborhood for good and sharing God’s love wherever we go.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



Welcome back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and had time to participate in some of the many events we had at East Side Lutheran

We are kicking off Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 13th for the entire congregation with ice cream treats after worship services. Our theme this year is “God’s Sweet Love” On Rally Sunday as well. Everyone is encouraged to bring their backpack to be blessed during the 10:00 am worship service.

Everyone should register on line prior to Sunday, September 13th, 2026 so that we have all the children’s information prior to Rally Sunday. Registration at www.eastsidelc.org

Bibles will be presented to the pre-K and 3rd grade children on Sunday, September 27th at the 10:00 am worship service. This is a special day for them as they continue their Sunday School journeys with new bibles.

We are excited to start our 2026-2027 Sunday School adventures and worship time learning about “God’s Sweet Love”!

Matthew 1:18-25

P	T	W	P	K	D	W	U	R	Z	S	O	V	Z	U
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M	U	Z	N	A	F	M	F	M	E	P	R	V	F	K
T	W	A	D	C	M	N	P	Y	C	J	I	X	I	A
W	N	Y	L	O	H	M	P	O	N	L	E	A	L	Z
T	M	A	E	R	D	O	I	W	O	E	D	L	L	M
T	E	H	P	O	R	P	E	U	C	S	A	V	E	M

Birth	Faithful	Lord	Save
Pledged	Law	Dream	Sins
Married	Disgrace	Afraid	Fulfill
Pregnant	Divorce	Conceived	Prophet
Spirit	Angel	Son	Immanuel

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Present: Ray Schut, Brian Ensberg, Brenda Schut, Kimberly Travers, Carla Midden, Pastor Layne Nelson

Excused Absence: Danielle Champa, Todd Brower, Janelle Songstad

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Nelson offered prayer and was welcomed back from Sabbatical by the Council.

Secretary's Report: Carla Midden moved to accept the July 12, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Schut discussed the ESLC parking lot program for LifeLight, which will raise funds for ESLC youth programs.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nelson said THANK YOU to the Council and to the Congregation for the gift of Sabbatical time. The time in April was exhilarating and so helpful in growing his understanding of the New Testament. The time in summer was renewing. Thank you to all of the staff for their great work - things went very smoothly. Thank you to Pastor Ray for his worship leading, Beer and Theology, and work with office staff. Thank you to Pastor Laura and Pastor Lars for their leadership in worship. Pastor Nelson reported that since last Council meeting, there were two weddings and one funeral. Choirs, confirmation, Fall meals, and programing begin Wednesday, Sept 9th.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported the budget is still in good shape. Year-to-date through July 2026, with net position at a deficit (29,756). This is normal and expected for this time of year. Year-to-date through July 2026, ELCS is net 22,460 better than budget. Year-to-date through July 2026, ELCS is net 10,601 better than last year. Cash flow is in good shape. As of July 31st, the checking account balance is approximately \$37,000. The Capital Savings Money Market balance is \$35,219. The Endowment Fund balance is \$871,320. The Mortgage balance is \$584,042.

Freedom for Ministry Appeal: Brian said that an anonymous donor has committed to paying the 2027 mortgage interest so that all remaining gifts can be applied to the mortgage principal. All gifts to the Freedom for Ministry Appeal will be added to the monthly payment the month after the gift is received. An internal audit process is in place to track all pledges/payments.

Carla Midden moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

Business

Cell Tower Update – Brian: ESLC will be required to send \$280,000 of the sale proceeds to Thrivent as a mortgage principal payment. There is one remaining issue to resolve before signing the "Letter of Intent". ESLC is "required to deliver the \$280,000 to Lender (Thrivent) within two weeks after the closing date of the cell tower transaction. Failure to deliver the \$280,000 to Lender within the time frame stated will result in an event of default under the loan." American Tower takes up to 30 days after closing to issue East Side Lutheran Church the full payment. Work on this issue continues.

LifeLight Discussion – Brenda: Plans continue for the ESLC table and tent at LifeLight. Volunteers are needed!

Other: ESLC has a new information desk! It will soon be telling the story of ESLC, the Congregation, and activities.

Continue on page 5

TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Each year, East Side Lutheran Church supports missions that enrich people's lives. Through July, we have contributed \$4,715 to Church on the Street, St. Dymas, St. Francis House, food programs, community outreach, Bible camps, and the South Dakota Lutheran Synod. Thank you!

In addition, special contributions to camping totaled nearly \$5,300 this spring. Every dollar helped young people enjoy a meaningful outdoor experience that deepened their faith.

In July, the Alice Kruse memorial gift funded new kitchen flooring costing \$3,818. The expense was paid from our Capital Savings Money Market account, which also holds funds designated for the Altar Guild, sound system, concrete projects, kitchen, quilt-ers, pastor's discretionary fund, and future projects. The account's current balance of \$35,219 supports better planning and reduces the impact of these expenses on the budget.

WELCA HAPPENINGS—SHIRLEY SUNDEM & BARBARA ANDERSON

**Did you know that all Women who are members of East Side Lutheran
are also members of WELCA?**

After taking the summer off we are looking forward to gathering together again starting September 9th and look forward to seeing everyone again as we gather to study God's word and celebrate our faith. The board will meet at 11:30 am followed by Bible Study and Fellowship with all women of East Side Lutheran at 1:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you then.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC—TYLER THRESS



Come join us!

On Wednesday, September 9th we will start our weekly practice for Bells and the Adult choir. Hand bells will begin and start practice at 5:45 and Adult Choir will be at 7 pm. Both meet in the Sanctuary. We welcome all to come and check out

what hand bells and choir is all about.

Kings Choir (children) practice is every Sunday at 9:15 am and meet in basement by the Sunday School classrooms.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the FH	2	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Food to You Distribution	4	5 9:30 am Altar Guild 5:30 pm Worship
6 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	7 Church Office Closed Labor Day	8 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the FH	9 11:30 WELCA Brd 1:00 WELCA 5:45 Bells 6:00 Supper– Grilled Hotdogs 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Choir	10 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Rummage Sale	11 Rummage Sale	12 5:30 pm Worship Rummage Sale
13 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Kings Choir 10:00 Rally Sunday blessing of backpacks	14 9:00 am Quilters	15 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	16 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper- Goulash 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Adult Choir	17 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	18	19 5:30 pm Worship
20 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Kings Choir	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	23 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper-Tuna/ Noodle Casserole 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Adult Choir	24 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	25	26 5:30 pm Worship
27 8:00 & 10:00 Worship Kings Choir	28 9:00 am Quilters	29 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 7:00 pm Beer & Theology	30 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper-Hot Ham/Cheese Sandwiches 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Adult Choir			

Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Stewardship Task Force: Janelle Songstad reported that George Boom Funeral Home has been suggested as a place for the smaller gathering. Unfortunately, they do not permit that. Still waiting to hear from the History Club.
and lots of fun!! Hoping to have another retreat this Fall that will feature a scavenger hunt. Confirmation guides are meeting on August 26th. Confirmation starts on Wednesday, September 9th. Rally Sunday will be Sunday, September 13th.
Ice cream novelties will be served.

Outreach: Danielle Champa reported that updated presentation boards for the LifeLight booth will be finished this coming week. Volunteers for the booth are needed. There is a sign-up sheet by the office. Information for parking at the church for the concert is posted online. (Facebook and Instagram) Please spread the word! All the proceeds go to help ELCA youth! Emma Brown from Bishop Dudley would like us to sponsor a meal in September. They would need 6-8 volunteers and \$300. Thank you for all who helped out with the new Information Desk!

Evangelism: Brenda Schut reported the Evangelism Committee met on July 29th and discussed LifeLight. Brian and Gail Ensberg volunteered to provide, set up and tear down the tent. A Thrivent grant has been obtained to purchase candy to have at the booth plus the trinkets already purchased. President Schut helped with a tri-fold pamphlet that will be printed and handed out at LifeLight. Any leftover pamphlets can be used for future mailing to ELCA neighbors in the downtown area.

Fellowship: Carla Midden reported the Fellowship Committee will be meeting at the end of August to plan events for the upcoming year - Bingo, Graduation Recognition, Confirmation Breakfast, assisting with Eggstravaganza, and other events to be determined. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Carla Midden.

Property: Todd Brower reported that the flooring has been installed in the kitchen. It looks great! This was a one-day project with savings of approximately \$600 from original bid due to not needing to remove the existing flooring, Trim pieces and caulking were completed on the North entrance at a cost of approximately \$2700. This will help with the bat issue. Green Forever continued with weed spray and pulling weeds, and the results are beginning to be visible. Swift Air, Inc. completed the water heater replacement and fixed minor plumbing issues. The gas meter was moved from ESLC lower-level mechanical room to exterior of building at no charge.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:25pm. The next Council meeting will be held September 20, 2026 at 11:15am.

Submitted by,
Kimberly Travers
Secretary

YOUTH NEWS — GWEN OAKLAND



I hope you all had a fun and adventurous summer but for me anyway I am looking forward to getting back into a routine. And September is one of those months that routines all start up again and confirmation is no exception. Students will begin to meet again starting September 9th we will gather together in the Fellowship Hall at 6:45 pm and head to the chapel for classes. Confirmation concludes at 7:35 pm. Confirmands do not need to bring anything the first night accept a loving heart and positive attitude. And don't forget that supper is served prior to confirmation starting at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to have dinner in the fellowship hall. There is a free well donation for the meal.

Looking forward to seeing all of the bright smiling faces. God Bless

PORTRAIT OF A SPIRITUAL QUEST—TYLER THRESS

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.

Dr. Tyler Thress found a place to belong as well as a voice that would lead others in worship as choirboy at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Ohio. St. Peter's was a large and musical congregation, established in 1804 and housed in a church that has been remodeled over the decades to accommodate growth. So it was natural place to welcome the newly minted teenager into a whole world of sound.

I remember being told, "You have a place in the choir loft."

The boy did not resist.

"It was a musical congregation that brought you into the fold," Dr. Thress said. And being in that fold included hand bells, a brass choir and, of course, voice choirs. The congregation of St. Peter's made a point of finding and nurturing its young members.

"I hope to do the same thing here," Dr. Thress said. He is aware of the need to pass on one great tradition of music to a new generation. "If we don't, it will be lost," he said.

The Mount Marty faculty member began serving at East Side as music director in July. From the very first service his presence has been hard to ignore. His voice seems to sidestep the need for a microphone. The rich baritone encourages even the old and timid to sing like Lutherans.

Dr. Thress will commute to East Side from his 1890 home in Yankton, SD. In addition to work at East Side and Mount Marty, Dr. Thress serves the St. Dysmas prison congregation at Springfield, SD.

"I see my work as a ministry of presence," he said.

His time with inmates has already produced some changes as he has identified men who are eager to sing as cantors in addition to being choir members. He is doing for them what was done for him years ago so after \$75,000 in college loans later he is making a home in eastern South Dakota.

While interviewing for the post at East Side Dr. Thress recognized elements of his childhood experiences in both the building and in the liturgy at East Side. It was all familiar and inviting. And so was the welcoming response from the congregation. "From the very first, people came up to me and introduced themselves", he said.

Even with all that Dr. Thress said he may face a hidden learning curve that he must learn to navigate. Dr. Thress is a man of German heritage and is used to being demonstrative, "Be German; throw something!"

But now he serves in Scandinavian heritage territory where restraint is the custom. He is willing to learn new rules of engagement. Dr. Thress states "With luck I will be around her for a long while."



LIFE LESSONS

**Thank God daily for your blessings
Live beneath your means
Return everything you borrow
Stop blaming other people
Admit it when you make a mistake
Give new clothes to charity
Do something nice, and try not to get caught
Listen more.....talk less
Every day take a 20 minute walk
Strive for excellence not perfection
Be on time
Don't make excuses
Don't argue
Get organized
Be kind to people
Let someone cut in the line ahead of you
Take time to be alone
Be humble
Realize and accept life is not fair
Know when to keep your mouth shut
Go an entire day without criticizing anyone
Learn from the past
Plan for the future
Live in the present
Don't sweat the small stuff**