



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

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Sioux Falls, SD

September 2025



8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sundays

5:30 pm

Saturdays

WORSHIP SERVICES



The Voice

Volume 29 Issue 9

of East Side Lutheran Church

Welcoming All
Serving Others
Growing in Faith

September 2025



Your Legacy of Faith

Who is responsible for you being where you are today?

The New Testament readings in worship throughout the month of August were from the book of Hebrews. A section of this book of the Bible retells the story of how the first Christians got to be where they were... on the shoulders of those who went before them, by faith trusting in God, even when it was really hard. The result... a steadfastness in faith and a strength to face whatever hardship might come their way. The same is true for us today.

You will notice in this month's newsletter (from volunteer stories to endowment gifts made long ago) examples of people who are today, strengthened and inspired to serve God at East Side Lutheran because of meaningful people who were once in their lives. Without even knowing it, these simple people of faith were forging a path to make the lives of those who came after them more meaningful, peaceful, and purpose-filled.

Realize it or not, others are depending on you too. You too are forging that path today for the sake of others. Whether you be a student preparing for confirmation, a voice in the choir, a parent helping with Sunday School, a pair of dirty hands in the garden, a volunteer in the kitchen, a person of generosity, or a helper or a participant in worship... your faithful presence and dedication are making future lives better.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith—HB 12:1-2a

On behalf of myself, and of all those who are yet to come after you... **Thank you!**

Together in Faith,

Pastor Layne



The Voice

This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

It can also be downloaded from our website.

East Side Lutheran Church

1300 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597 www.eastsidelc.org

Staff

Rev. Layne Nelson Lead Pastor

Rev. Ray Heidenson Visitation Pastor

Wayne Wosje Business Manager

Gayle Lee Parish Secretary

Sue Hart Volunteer Coordinator

Tom Call Security

Nona Bixler Newsletter

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

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

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!

September 21—In honor of Ann VanBochove's Birthday given by Ann

Online Sponsorships

Did you know that people in SD, ND, NV, WY, TX, OK, OH (and other states) regularly worship with us online... and then share the Good News in their local community.

YOU make that possible!

Online Sponsorship—

\$50/Sunday!

September 7—Given by Evie Pruden in memory of her family.

Thank you to all who have sponsored a Radio Broadcast or Online Worship.

If you would like to help support this special ministry call the church office at 605-336-3597.



As hearts simultaneously break and rejoice... please hold the following

ESL families in prayer:

Jeff Armstrong, Jim Buckneberg, Brett Songstad, Wayne Twedt

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.

Al Fix given by:

- Merlin & Barb Goehring
- Joe & Sharon Johansson
- Mark & Beth Johnson
- Don & Janet Messner
- Brent & Jennie McCown
- Bob & Karel Amend
- Char VanBockern
- Shirley Watke
- Judi Eliason
- Dee Black

Rita Erickson given by

- Family and friends

Jeff Armstrong given by

- Family & friends
- Sandy Armstrong
- Mark & Mari Ossenfort
- Doug Gravning
- Jacelyn Doese

Myra Bornitz given by

- Marv & Laurie McKnelly
- Dee Hohn
- Joyce Fuyok
- Nancy Renner
- Marlin & Colleen Wangsness
- Bob & Jane Himrich
- Kay Dammer

(gifts given as of August 25th)

DIRECTOR MUSIC TOM KRAUSE



Be a Bell Ringer they aren't ding-a-lings

Celebration Bell Choir- Begins Wednesday, September 10

meets at 5:45pm—6:30pm in the Sanctuary and plays once a month in Sunday morning wor-

ship services. Did you play in the band in High School? Play the piano? Play the drums? Then you would be perfect for the Bell Choir. An understanding of rhythm, not reading notes, is what is helpful for ringing bells. See Tom Krause with questions or just come and try it out.

Adult Choir- Begins Wednesday, September 3rd

meet at 7:00 and rehearses for an hour. The Choir sings three Sundays a month and has the fourth off. No experience is necessary, just a desire to sing praises to our Lord. The fall schedule and music will be passed out at the first rehearsal. All are welcome to just drop on in.

Let the Children Sing

King's Singers are for students third grade and up. The first week Sunday School meets, September 7th, notes will be sent home inviting children to the first rehearsal the next Sunday, **September 15th, at 9:15, between services.** They typically sing two times a month, once at the end of the early service and once in the late service.

The Choir has improved greatly over the years and has really enjoyed singing with the Adult Choir on occasion.

Everyone can do as the Psalmist says -

"Sing to the Lord"



PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



I worked for several radio stations for over 20 years and there are a few programs that always have to be on the air, unless you want an avalanche of phone calls...the livestock markets and church services! They're both vital, one for our financial future and the other to stay connected to our community.

East Side Lutheran has had a radio presence for 81 years! It serves those who can't make it to church for any number of reasons. Our listeners receive God's message every Sunday and feel connected to all of us sitting in the pews. It is like an on-air family reunion every week. Listening to the music, hearing God's word, and centering one's self for the week ahead.

Our radio ministry is made possible with the support of people just like you...members of East Side. Each week the radio broadcast is sponsored by someone who would like to pay tribute to family members, commemorate special events like birthdays and anniversaries, or just to say "Thank You" for God's grace and mercy.

If you'd like to sponsor our radio broadcast, feel free to contact our business office. Let them know what week you'd like and the event you're commemorating, they'll take care of the rest. I hope you'll prayerfully consider being a radio sponsor...it's much better than sponsoring the livestock reports.

11:00am on KXRB Radio

(1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

Sponsor a radio broadcast - \$255/Sunday

Online Sponsorship—\$50/Sunday

STEWARDSHIP REPORT — JON CISAR



The Stewardship Taskforce met Aug.6 in person with our GSB consultant. We touched base on the successes of last year's pledge drive and also looked at what we could do better this year. Last year, we exceeded both our goals: number of pledges collected and the dollar amount pledged over the previous year.

This year we are looking to keep the same three focuses of: Christ centered worship, engaging the community, and welcoming more families to worship. We hope to communicate how we've made progress on these focuses and will continue to tell personal stories of how this church is improving and/or enriching lives.

The council has been tasked with thinking about tactics to engage our three focus areas. And also, if we are looking to bolster our staff (office help, 2nd pastor, part-time pastor, etc) what should that look like?

The Stewardship Taskforce met on Aug. 18th at 6pm via Zoom to further prepare for the imminent pledge drive and stewardship campaign. The congregation will receive more information in the near future.

PORTRAIT OF A SPIRITUAL QUEST

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This brief profile of a 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.



In June, Philip Pranger presented a rare experience for the East Side Lutheran Church congregation. At a 10 a.m. Sunday service Phil stood in front of the church as he served as the baptismal sponsor for his wife, Kelsey, and their daughters Leiyssa, a junior at Brandon Valley High School, and Jaylen, a student at Brandon Intermediate School. When the service ended, Phil said, "I felt as if a weight had been lifted; part of my job had just gotten done."

And perhaps the event would not have happened had not Jaylen asked a big question: "*Dad, can we go to church?*" It was not an easy question for Phil to ignore. "I couldn't wiggle out of this one."

The family began attending a church they were familiar with. It wasn't a fit. It could have ended there but something else was at work. Phil had regularly listened to the radio station KXRB ("It's my favorite"). He had it on Sunday mornings while he tinkered in the garage. He liked the organ music and he would pause for the sermon. "The minister sounded very welcoming," Phil said.

So the Sunday morning routine had been set well before Jaylen asked to go to church. Phil's mother, who lives in the East Side neighborhood, suggested the family try East Side Lutheran. And they did just that.

It was only after the family settled in the pew that Phil made the connection: the welcoming pastor he had been listening to on the radio was the man greeting the congregation now at the start of the service: Pastor Layne Nelson. Since that Sunday, Phil and Kelsey have volunteered to do some painting around the church. Phil extended the volunteer effort by helping other church members with tasks around their house.

"Volunteering just felt right," Phil said. Yet it was the "Food to You" program that gave the Prangers another chance to volunteer as a group. "We had not done this as a whole family before." Phil also ushers on Sundays and has learned to work the sound booth.

The seed to find a place to worship had been planted a long time ago by grandparents who took Phil to church when he visited them in Platte, SD. It was there, after church, a simple gesture pointed to a future. The pastor made it a point to greet Phil after the service ended and shake his hand. "He acknowledged my presence," Phil said. The acknowledgement set the stage for something that could come next.

The request to go to church coincided with a crossroads in Phil's life; he just left a promising job with no clear idea what he would do next. Phil described it as having his back to the wall.

Phil has found another job. He's a school bus driver for the district that provided him with his grade and high school education. After the first few days on the job Phil has found his military experience has been helpful to wrangling a big bus and a bunch of kids in the morning and afternoon. "I haven't felt like this (exhausted) since I was a private in the army," the former infantry squad leader said.

We are grateful the Pranger's have joined our East Side Lutheran Family.

COUNCIL MINUTES — PASTOR MICHAEL MOLLAND



East Side Lutheran Congregation Council Meeting August 17, 2025

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

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:15.

Opening Devotions – Pastor Layne Nelson opened the meeting with devotions.

Secretary's Report: Brian Ensberg moved; Carla Midden seconded to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion Carried.

President's Report: President Schut reported on the rejuvenation of the West Classroom and upper level classroom. He discussed our participation in the LifeLight event and our need for volunteers. The council discussed the dramatic increase in homeless people spending daytimes and sometime overnight on church property.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Layne Nelson reported that President Schut has reviewed and updated our Wedding Guidelines. Pastor Nelson stated we have performed the following pastoral acts so far this summer: Six Baptisms; Five Weddings; and Eight Funerals. He reported that summer worship attendance has ranged from 194 to 290. Fall attendance is normally over 300.

Pastor Nelson presented a Sabbatical Proposal for the year 2026. The East Side personnel policy states that eight weeks are allowed after every six years of a pastors call. Pastor Nelson is now in his eighth year of call. The council reviewed the proposal.

Carla Midden moved; Gwen Oakland seconded; that the Sabbatical Proposal for the year 2026 be approved. Motion Carried.

Financial Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported that year to date as of July 31, 2025, we are \$10,745 better than budget; our net position is (\$50,357) which is normal for churches during this time of year; total offerings are up 9.9% over last year. \$29,651; and the Capital Savings Money Market balance is \$63,879 (proceeds are used for capital projects and special programs).

We have received over \$18,000 in foundation gifts that former members gifted ESLC through the Sioux Falls Community Foundation. We projected \$15,000 in the budget. Treasurer Ensberg reviewed 2025 year end forecasts with the council.

Jon Cisar moved; Carla Midden seconded to approve the financial report for July 2025. Motion Carried.

Committees: Stewardship & Visioning - Jon Cisar reported The Stewardship Taskforce met on Aug.6 in person with our GSB consultant. We touched base on the successes of last year's pledge drive and also looked at what we could do better this year. We are looking to keep the same three focuses of Christ centered worship, engaging the community, and welcoming more families to worship.

The council has been tasked with thinking about tactics to engage in our three focus areas. And also, if we are looking to bolster our staff (office help, 2nd pastor, part-time pastor, etc.) what should that look like.

EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



Thank you from the Council

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the families of Vern and Connie Berg, Hymen and Nila Pitts, and Selmer and Genevieve Nelson for their exceptionally generous gifts.

By thoughtfully including East Side Lutheran in their legacy planning through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, these families have ensured an annual contribution to our General Fund.

The mission of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation is: *"In partnership with donors, we provide trusted leadership that inspires philanthropy, and enriches the quality of life in our area — for good, for ever."*

As you consider your own family's legacy, we invite you to speak with the Foundation about creating a lasting gift to East Side Lutheran. Together, we are in the Neighborhood for Good!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



Sunday School sets the tone for a child's walk of faith with Jesus. We are so excited to share the love of Christ with our ESL young people! Our classes begin on September 7th for PreK beginning at age 3 through fifth grade.

Registration: Each year all children need to be registered on our church [website - eastsidelc.org](http://eastsidelc.org)...you will find the easy online registration form in the Sunday School section.

Block Party: We are excited to once again have the neighborhood block party on Saturday, **September 6th** starting at **11:00am until 2:00pm**. Food (hot dogs, chips, cookies & drinks), Inflatables, games, chalk the walk, Fire & Police department, music and great fellowship with our congregation along with our neighbors.

Rally Sunday: Sunday School begins on **September 7th** with Rally Sunday. Families will once again worship together at the **10:00am** service. There will be the children's message along with the **blessing of the backpacks (for all ages)** during this time. The children will then meet their Teachers in the narthex and will follow them to their Sunday School rooms, Sunday School will be dismissed at **11:15am**.

Together we are living into the promises we made for our children in Baptism to raise them in faith. Let us rejoice in this process together.

If you have any questions, please reach out to

sundayschool@eastsidelc.org

-Jackie Swiden-Sunday School Director



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed Labor Day	2 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship in the upstairs Meeting room	3 7:00 pm Choir	4 8am-6pm Rummage Sale 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible 6:00 pm Food to You	5 8am-6pm Rummage Sale	6 8am-2pm Rummage Sale 11am—2pm Block Party 5:30 pm Worship
7 8:00 and 10:00 worship 11:15 Education Task Force Rally Sunday Grandparents Day	8 9:00 am Quilters— Lower Level	9 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 6:00 pm Charis Board Meeting	10 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper—Hot Dogs Fellowship Hall 6:45 Confirmation Begins 7:00 pm Choir	12 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	12 5:30 pm Worship	
14 8:00 and 10:00 worship 11:15 Healing Service 11:15 Council Meets	15 Newsletter Items Due	16 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	17 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper—Tater Tot Casserole Fellowship Hall 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	18 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	19 5:30 pm Worship	
21 8:00 and 10:00 worship Church on the Bus Vikings vs Bengals	22	23 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	24 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper—Mac n cheese Fellowship Hall 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	25 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	26 5:30 pm Worship	
28 8:00 and 10:00 worship	29 9:00 am Quilters— Lower Level	30 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	6pm meals every Wednesday starting Sept 10 Everyone Welcome			

Continue Council minutes:

Education – Gwen Oakland reported that Sunday School Rally Sunday with blessing of the back-packs is September 7. Confirmation resumes on September 10. The youth Lock-in has been postponed until October 4 – 5.

Outreach – Danielle Champa reported: Food to You was held at ESL on August 7.

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported we are again participating in for the Life Light event both for a booth and parking. We desperately need volunteers for both areas.

Fellowship – Carla Midden reported on the Block Party scheduled for September 6. They will begin Wednesday meals on September 10.

Property – Todd Brower reported on summer projects. The boiler and air conditioning units will be turned off for a conversion to forced air when the temperatures allow.

Old Business – Treasurer Ensberg presented information concerning the cell tower lease from American Tower. We have received a letter from them asking if we are interested in selling the tower. The council is examining this proposal.

New Business – President Schut asked members to consider dates for an October Council Retreat.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm. The next meeting will be on September 14, 2025 at 11:15 am. Respectfully submitted, Michael Molland, Secretary.



Colleen Wangsness and Todd would like to give a shout out and a thank you to all those great helpers who worked so diligently, to redo the north flower bed. It looks wonderful! We weeded, dug, added mulch and replanted. We also dug out some Hosta for members to take and give a new home. If you didn't receive a Hosta but would like one please leave your name and phone number at the church office and we will make sure you get one.


Grateful to the following individuals for getting their hands dirty to beautify the church flower bed and grounds: Marilyn Haiar, Barb VanBatavia, Janelle Songstad, Deb Herreid, Linda Ziegler, Barb Goehring, Colleen and Marlin Wangsness.



THANK YOU

from the bottom of our hearts!





5

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS — CARLA MIDDLEN

Mark your calendars



The fellowship committee has been working hard to put together this years Block Party which will be held on Saturday, September 6th from 11:00 am—2:00 pm. There will be a large inflatable, a variety of games, and free hotdogs, chips, water and pop. A new addition this year will be chalk the walk and live music. Representatives from the police and fire department will also be stopping by. The event is always fun for people of all ages. We are also looking for volunteers to help for a variety of duties. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Wednesday night suppers will begin on September 10th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a meal and socialization. It is a great way to take the night off of cooking and dishes. We invite you to sign up and help in the kitchen preparing the meal or serving the meal and cleaning up. We also need individuals to sign up to provide a dessert each Wednesday. The signup sheets are posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen.

September 10—Grilled hot dogs
September 17—Tater Tot Casserole
September 24— Mac 'n' Cheese

Free will donations are always appreciated, but not required.

Gratefully, Jackie Swiden & Carla Midden

TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Year-to-date as of July 31, 2025, we are \$10,745 better than budget with total offerings up \$29,651 or 9.9%. Thank you for your generous gifts that allow us to continue the Gospel Mission and Church programs. We have successfully positioned our finances so that we are able to delay our endowment distribution until late fall. The capital savings account balance is \$63,879.

The complete year-to-date budget is posted on the Church bulletin board. Contact Brian Ensberg at 605-254-1870 with any questions that you may have.

WELCA HAPPENINGS



Attention Women of East Side Lutheran Church. As a member of East Side Lutheran Church all women are automatically a member of WELCA. After a summer break we will start meeting again on Wednesday, September 10th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please consider joining us at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month for Bible study and fellowship.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - JACKIE SWIDEN



Jackie Swiden has been a lifetime member at East Side Lutheran Church, was baptized with six wonderful Godparents and she has not taken her foot off the gas since.

Her sister Sue got her started by asking her to be involved in teaching Sunday School which was over 35 years ago. She did and she was hooked. Jackie says she loves children and never having any of her own but she feels she has hundreds of connection with the children who she has taught in Sunday School. Now she even has children of the parents she taught years ago. When

she is out and about and someone comes up to her and says *"I know you, you were my Sunday School Teacher"* her heart is filled with joy.

Some of her favorite memories are the Christmas programs. Jackie says we never know for sure how the children will act during the program but they always do an amazing job and sing their little hearts out. For many years she asked the children to share stories of how the week was and things they may have done. However, kids aren't afraid to "tell all" so after a few moments of "too much information" she discontinued that practice.

Jackie along with church friend, Carla Midden, have taken on the task of planning, purchasing the food, preparing and serving the Wednesday night meals for choir and bell members along with



confirmation families and those who are attending Bible study. However, everyone is welcome to enjoy the meal. She states *"I hated grocery shopping, but now I find myself looking at the ads and getting the best deals on food and it gets me out of the house now that I am retired"*.

This past year Jackie was honored to be a confirmation mentor for Reagan Kappel who years ago was in her Kindergarten Sunday School class. Jackie stated *"I was so blessed walking this path with her in getting confirmed."* (Jackie and Reagan pictured at a Wednesday confirmation class)

Jackie also is very involved in planning and executing some of the special events at East Side Lutheran. The Eggstravaganza, being one of them which is a labor of love stuffing all those Easter eggs to prepare for the day of the hunt. She is grateful for the youth and others who assist to make sure all the eggs are stuffed and ready for the big day. Trunk or Treat is another one of Jackie's favorites seeing all of the kids excited and dressed up and conversing with families along with handing out candy. And then there is also the block party which is a great way to bring the neighborhood together in the parking lot for food, games and fun.

So you can tell by this article that Jackie Swiden is passionate about children and having fun. She is a valued volunteer at East Side Lutheran and we are grateful for her sharing her time and talents with us at East Side Lutheran.

Pictured below are the 2025-2026 Sunday School Teachers from left to right: Ruby Young, Timberli Stone, Jackie Swiden and Casey Kappel. Not pictured: Kayla Bolton & Makayla VanRegenmorter

