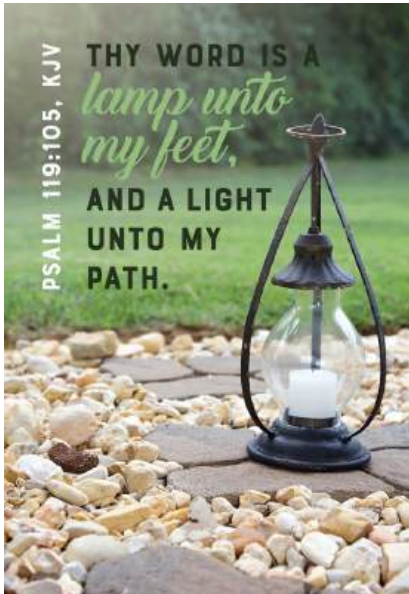
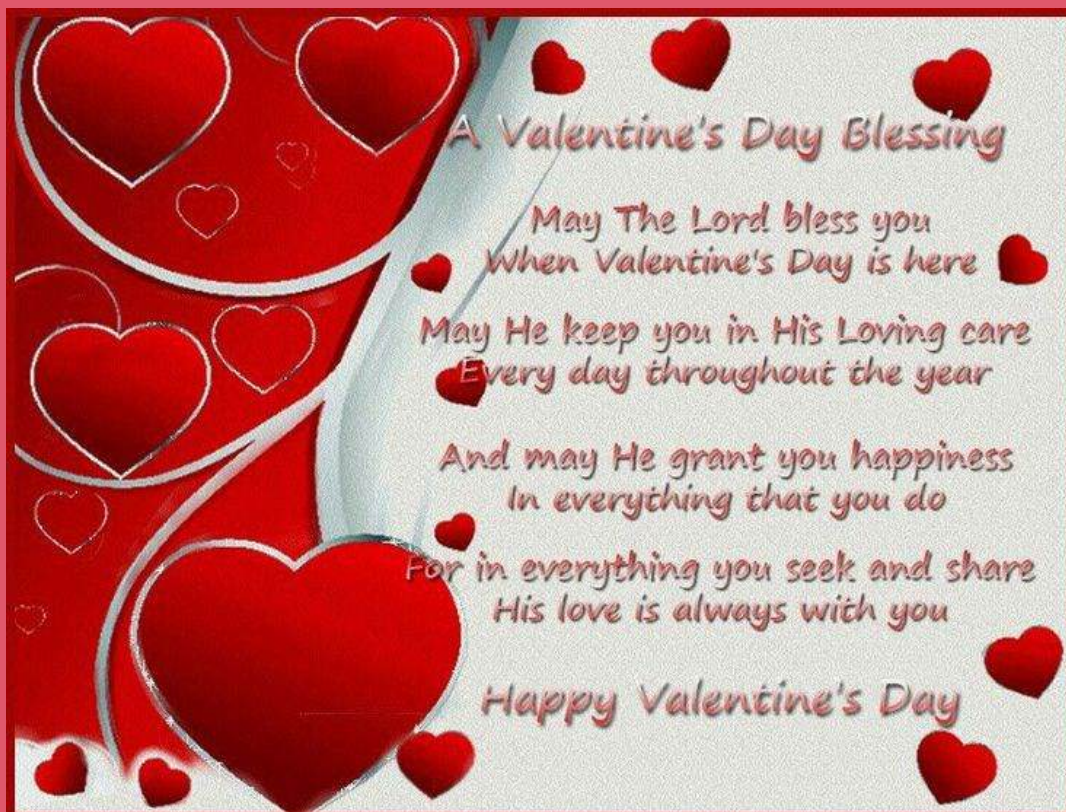




LAKES AREA MINISTRY PARTNERS
 Augustana & Eksjo Lutheran Church
 of Detroit Lakes and Lake Park














2025





February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Color Chart: ALL: Green Eksjo: Blue Augustana: Red Pastor Bob: Purple Youth: Cole</p> <p>Worship Times E: 9:00 am A: 10:45 am</p>						1
<p>2 Communion</p>  <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>A: 10:00a Women of Augustana Annual meeting</p>	<p>3 E: Quilting 10:00a - 4:00p</p> <p>E: 7:00p ZOOM Prayer Gathering ALL WELCOME</p>	<p>4 10:30a Text</p> <p>A: 10:00a Quilting</p> <p>4:00p Music & Worship 7:00p Theology on Tap</p>	<p>5 A: 10:00a Bible Study</p>  <p>CONFIRMATION 6:00p Supper 6:30p Class</p>	<p>6 10:00a Sunnyside Worship</p>  <p>Nursing Home Worship Service</p>	7	8
<p>9 Communion</p> <p>A: Sunday School hand out Valentines Noisy Change E: 1:00 - 3:00p</p>  <p>First Communion Classes</p>	<p>10</p> <p>E: 7:00p ZOOM Prayer Gathering ALL WELCOME</p>	<p>11 10:30a Text</p> <p>A: 10:00a Quilting</p> <p>A: 9:30a Council Meeting</p> 	<p>12 A: 10:00a Bible Study</p>  <p>CONFIRMATION 5:30p - 7:00p Valentine Party at LP Lutheran</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>GIVING HEARTS DAY</p>	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>A: Sunday School Noisy Change</p> <p>E: 1:00 - 3:00p</p>  <p>First Communion Classes</p>	<p>17 E: Quilting 10:00a - 4:00p</p> <p>E: 6:30p Council</p>  <p>E: 7:00p ZOOM Prayer Gathering ALL WELCOME</p>	<p>18 10:30a Text</p> <p>A: 10:00a Quilting</p> <p>7:00 pm Theology On Tap</p> 	<p>19 A: 10:00a Bible Study</p>  <p>CONFIRMATION 6:00p Supper 6:30p Class</p>	20	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>E: 1:00 - 3:00p</p>  <p>First Communion Classes</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>E: 7:00p ZOOM Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>25 10:30a Text</p> <p>A: 10:00a Quilting</p>	<p>26 A: 10:00a Bible Study</p> <p>CONFIRMATION 6:00p Supper 6:30p Class</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Deadline for Eksjo's Scholarship Applications</p>	



Sunnyside Care Center

16561 US Hwy 10
Lake Park, MN 56554

Lindstrom Senior Living

30455 Lehigh Ave Apt 209
Lindstrom, MN 55045
Barbara Welken

Viking Manor

317 4th St NW, Ulen MN
Lester Kiehl (A)



Remember in your prayers and/or with a visit or card our members in nursing homes, under Hospice care or unable to get to services. It is so appreciated and a great way to put your faith into action.



PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYER: Robin Colsen^(A), Addie DeBord (friend of Rotter's), Danielle Eidenschink (friends of Michaelson's), Tracey Ginnaty^(A), Connie Jahnke (mother of Liz Wixo), Marv & Iris Johnson^(A), Linda Maher^(A), Tricia Maloney (sister-in-law of Kathy Michaelson, Joe Morrison (friend of Joe Skogmo), Dan Olson (friend of Skogmo's), Kathy Omberg (sister of Rick Michaelson), Dannika Pollock^(E), Amy Porter^(E), Mary Thompson (mother of Mike Thompson)

Soldiers in Service and/or deployed: Brian Anderson, Hailey Frohman (daughter of Mark & Carolyn Palm), Bailey Johnson (son of Sonja), Jake Keibke (son of Marty & Patty), Gavan Mikkelsen (son of Jason & Mindi), Matt Score, Alex Strehlow (son of Anessa & Geminie Strehlow), Kellynn Zinck (niece of Janet Olson), Parker Weyer

If someone has lost or knows of someone who has lost a very special person in their life, please e-mail the obituary and information about the deceased to Dawn at lamp@arvig.net. It is very important to extend our sympathy and prayers at a very difficult time to members of our LAMP family! **Thank You!**



Our deepest sympathies to family and friends of Sonya M. Hansen. Sonya passed away Tuesday, January 14, at her home surrounded by her family. Funeral was held Saturday, January 18 at Lutheran Church Christ the King in Moorhead. Sonya was the niece of Andy and Cristy Francis.

Please keep Sonya's family and friends in your prayers .

Korsmo Funeral Home / Fargo

Our deepest sympathies to family and friends of LeRoy D. Seim. LeRoy passed away Wednesday, January 22 at his care facility in Frazee surrounded by his loving family. A memorial service for LeRoy is in the planning stages, to be conducted in the spring or early summer.

Please keep LeRoy's family and friends in your prayers .

West Kjos Funeral Home / Detroit Lakes



Congratulations to Jake and Alex Score on the birth of their daughter Eleanor Anne Score! She was born on Monday, January 20th!



Augustana / Eksjo LAMP Restructure Meeting Minutes / January 6, 2024 (Approved)

* * * * *

Attending: Interim Pr. Bob Kirchman, Arden Shustad, Marlys Skogmo, John Osborne, Kathy Michaelson, Alex Score, Eksjo congregation council, Bishop Bill Tesh, Rick Michaelson

Absent: Chris Nybo

This meeting was held at Eksjo church.

The meeting was opened by Bishop Tesh.

Pr. Kirchman read a short devotion, followed by a prayer.

Bishop Tesh introduced himself and then had all present do the same.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss why Eksjo council decided to leave the LAMP parish. Furthermore, the meeting is to discuss if a working relationship could be continued between the two congregations after Eksjo leaves LAMP and what that relationship might look like.

Eksjo council member, Rob Schwartz spoke about Eksjo's dissatisfaction with the current LAMP agreement. He said there are requirements set forth in the agreement that are not being followed, like council meeting multiple times per year, and therefore the agreement should be changed to reflect what the council is actually doing. He said that Eksjo does not like the way the percentages paid by each congregation is calculated. He said that Eksjo council does not like having two treasurers, one for Eksjo and one for LAMP. (Note: There are actually three treasurers since Augustana congregation also has one). Eksjo council also does not like that the two congregations have equal representation on the LAMP council even though they pay more into the Parish. They feel it would be easier to make decisions and run the finances if the parish was dissolved and a new contractual agreement was arranged. Under this new agreement, Eksjo would hire the Pastor and Augustana would contract for services and Pastoral needs and would pay Eksjo church a set monthly fee for these services. Furthermore, Augustana could make requests, but all decision making would be made by Eksjo's council. This agreement would not be an equal partnership as the current parish is, but rather it would be a contractual arrangement where Augustana would hire services from Eksjo.

After other Eksjo council members discussed these points further, Augustana members had a chance to speak. John Osborne stated that the Augustana council had decided that they did not have the authority to vote to leave LAMP and that it would take a congregational vote to take such action. He then asked why the Eksjo council had decided they had this authority. Melanie Hanson said that the Eksjo council had reviewed the LAMP parish agreement and made a determination that they did not need to have a congregational vote to leave LAMP. Augustana members discussed that they were happy with the current agreement and saw no need for change. They commented that if certain items were not being followed, those particular items should be examined and if so fit, have a vote to change those particular by laws. They believe the current way to determine percentages is fair, and went on to explain how this formula was initially developed so that there was very little swing from year to year so that each congregation did not have a sudden burden placed on it just because of a one year anomaly in membership or giving. They didn't see the advantage of dropping one treasurer since it would only eliminate one check per month by Eksjo church and have zero effect on Augustana. Augustana members expressed their displeasure with the thought of having no representation in the decision making process, and being subject to the whims of Eksjo. Augustana also said they would want to have a voice on the call committee when a permanent Pastor was called. A comment was made that Augustana had left a contractual agreement to join the LAMP parish, and so if we were going to now be in a contractual agreement and not a Parish with Eksjo, it might serve Augustana better to find a congregation that was in closer proximity to Augustana church to contract with.

A question was asked by Augustana of Bishop Tesh, if LAMP would need to be dissolved if Eksjo left? The Bishop replied no. Then the Bishop was asked if it were possible for Augustana to keep LAMP and seek other congregations to join us in the Parish? The Bishop replied yes. The question was asked, what would happen to the interim Pastor and the LAMP administrative assistant if LAMP was dissolved? The Bishop said they would both need to be let go from their positions. After this, a call would need to be extended to hire the Interim Pastor, followed by approval from the Synod office, and finally signing a new letter of call. For the administrative assistant position, a normal search and hiring would be completed.

After further discussion, Rob stated that the proposal Eksjo had given Augustana was just a starting point and not a take it or leave it offer. It was stated that Eksjo does want to continue a relationship with Augustana. Augustana was encouraged to meet and come up with a counter proposal to present to the Eksjo council. Eksjo was asked if they were open to an agreement in which Augustana remained with representation and would have a vote in the decision making process? Rob answered that it might be possible, but probably not an equal vote. He continued, probably something more in line with the payment percentage, maybe one vote for Augustana to three for Eksjo.

Augustana / Eksjo LAMP Restructure Meeting Minutes / January 6, 2024 (Approved) pg 2

* * * * *

The Bishop proposed that the two congregations councils each meet, come up with proposals to give to the other council to review, and then try to come up with a working compromise by May 2025.

The meeting was closed with a prayer

The next meeting will be the congregation annual meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025. The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Faithfully submitted by: John H. Osborne / Augustana Secretary

* * * * *

Eksjo / Augustana LAMP Restructure Meeting Minutes / January 6, 2024

Present: most Council members from Augustana and Eksjo, LAMP members from both churches, Pastor Bob Kirchman, Bishop Tesh, and Eksjo Youth Director Cole Wixo

Mel Hanson Eksjo President opened with an introduction to tonight’s meeting.

Pastor Bob read a devotional from “Inspired” by Rachel Evans, and opened with prayer.

Bishop Tesh discussed the value in a Parish like LAMP when having numerous churches as it was intended to serve initially and he commented numerous times that a contractual agreement is more common with a 2-point church and he felt that the agreement is not necessary for our 2 churches to operate. The Bishop reiterated that the Synod is there to help where needed and suggested the 2 churches are free to make decisions they see fit to make for the respective churches.

Members from the churches shared concerns about why this was change was necessary, explanations were provided such as streamlining the process of making decisions, both financially and operational. Concerns were brought up that Augustana could be stuck in a situation that they are not happy with nor have control of, in which Bishop Tesh reminded the group that with any contract there is going to be things are not always going to be perfect and that either party can move on at some point if they aren’t happy with the way things are going. Eksjo assured Augustana that it’s a priority for us to ensure that Augustana remains happy with the new agreement. Bishop Tesh stated that if Augustana were leave and join another church there would be a contract for them to sign as well, emphasizing that contracts are going to be a part of any agreement between churches.

The conversation shifted in to the contractual obligations such as things that could be added/amended so that both churches feel represented appropriately. Some of the ideas that could be added to the proposed contract provided to Augustana were adding a “call” provision and providing a representative voice to address concerns that they may not have a say in anything any longer. Eksjo members believe that the equal vote with LAMP is not in line with the financial obligations Eksjo is required to meet. Bishop Tesh encouraged that whatever changes that could be proposed are done in good faith and be reasonable.

To move things forward: Eksjo has provided a contract to Augustana in November, and Augustana indicated they would discuss this at their annual meeting and begin working on reviewing the contract provided to them with their council then to be shared back with via their contract committee members (TBD) with Eksjo to review, it was agreed upon by both churches to have a check in meeting with both groups **towards the end of February**. The end goal which was also agreed upon by both churches is to **try to have an agreement in place by May 1st (90 days roughly from Feb 1) or sooner**. The meeting concluded on a good note with a lot positivity from both sides hopeful that an agreement can be finalized soon.

The meeting adjourned 7:24 pm after prayer from Bishop Tesh.

"Written by council secretary, Rob Schwartz - edited and reviewed by Eksjo council members prior to submission"



From the desk of Pastor Bob Kirchman

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Like a piece of wood that floats on water, we have been at adrift as an organization. LAMP started with five churches hoping for a level of cooperation and closeness between the ministries of five churches that is rarely, if ever, seen. LAMP went through reorganization almost immediately after being organized. LAMP now has two churches rather than five. With only two churches left, Eksjo and Augustana, the Synod Office believes that a different way of being together is possible. Your long-time pastor, Pastor Roy Noel, indicated the same thing before he left. Members from both churches believe a different simpler way of the two churches being together is possible.

Currently, Augustana has equal decision-making authority with Eksjo. Augustana contributes between twenty-five and thirty per cent of the cost of LAMP and yet has equal decision-making authority with Eksjo. It is understandable why Augustana likes this arrangement while Eksjo does not. But more importantly, the LAMP board made decisions regarding money when it relied on Eksjo and Augustana to provide the money it wanted to spend. The LAMP's board were dependent on the church councils of Eksjo and Augustana.

The idea is that we replace the current arrangement with a simpler one. Eksjo and Augustana would work together to put together a budget for the common ministry costs. Would the newer arrangement result in Augustana having fewer votes regarding the costs of doing ministry together, yes. Does this mean that Augustana would have to accept whatever Eksjo decided to do? No. It is in the best self-interest of both Eksjo and Augustana to try for consensus about sharing the costs of ministry. Any relationship with any church Augustana enters would unavoidably be one where Augustana has fewer votes than its partner-unless Augustana could pay more of the share of the ministry costs.

I believe it is in the best interests of Augustana to be in partnership with Eksjo. I believe it is in the best interests of Eksjo to remain in partnership with Augustana. We have a history together, we know each other. We have personal relationships with each other. We are used to working together. We make each other stronger. Most people in both churches want to remain together. I know God will be with us as we work through this difficult transition time.

In Christ,

Pastor Bob

* * * * *





Cole's Youth Report January 2025

Youth Director Cole Wixo: 701-361-5973 / colewixo@gmail.com



December 11: Confirmation class

Discipleship: "Who are you following?" Pt. 1

Pr. Bob made St. Nick bags for every student.

December 18: Confirmation class

Discipleship "Who are you following?" Pt. 2

Christmas letters and Year Devotional Books handed out to students.

Progress reports sent home with students.

Christmas cards to Sunday School students sent out.

Christmas cards delivered to Sunnyside residents.

Handwritten notes from the confirmation students to each resident along with a photo of the Sunday School

Christmas cast in costumes.

January 8: Informational meeting about bible study at LPA HS.

Bob, Melissa, and I along with about 15 students.

Confirmation class: "Grace upon Grace" Pt. 1

Missing the mark carnival activities. Point of Emphasis (POE) on the fact that no matter how many times we mess up,

God's grace is always upon us.

January 15: Confirmation class:

"Grace upon Grace" Pt. 2

Stories from the bible about grace.

January 17: Bible study on Judging others. Myself and 5 others in attendance.

Good discussion on Matthew 7:1-2.

Weather warnings and a few students forgot. Hoping for a few more on the 31st. The topic on the 31's will be "Anxiety".

Upcoming / To Do:

Pickleball challenge courts at the LPA HS on Sunday from 12-3. LPL and First Lutheran joining us. All area students invited.

Soup and sandwich meals in March and April.

Confirmation students will serve prior to Lenten services.

Free-will offering will be collected with 50% of the proceeds going to a local charity and the other half will go to support the Youth Program at Eksjo.

Possible Movie Night(s) at the church in February.

We can get an annual church video license for about \$250 that blanket covers almost any video content. We just cannot charge admission.

Sr. High Youth Gathering: Nothing new from the ELCA on when this will be. Last year it was in New Ulm in March.

I will call a rep this week.

Talk to Pathways about possible Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience again this summer...

Pathways 2025 Summer Bible Camp Registration is now open.

Camp Emmaus has a variety of camp programs for students of all ages.

Campership Scholarships will be available once again to students who want to go.



Eksjo's Confirmation Schedule

- Feb 5: 6:00 pm Supper / 6:30 Class Toby & Kristina Eiter
- Feb 12: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Valentine Party at Lake Park Lutheran
- Feb 19: 6:00 pm Supper / 6:30 Class Rob & Jean Schwartz
- Feb 26: 6:00 pm Supper / 6:30 Class NEED / PLEASE Contact Cole
- Mar 5: *Ash Wednesday*



Eksjo's Acolyte Schedule

- Feb 2: Addison & Easton Welter
- Feb 9: Brooklyn & Kylie Kirkevold
- Feb 16: Maks Olson / Tydan Eiter
- Feb 23: Molly Wixo / Zylee Nelson
- Mar 2: Nydia Mikkelsen
- Mar 9: Tydan Eiter / Maks Olson
- Mar 16: Emma Bjerke / Averi Hazelton
- Mar 23: Addison & Easton Welter
- Mar 30: Brooklyn & Ella Kirkevold



First Communion classes will start in February. Anyone interested, please contact Pastor Bob. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons on February 9th, 16th & 23rd: 1:00 - 3:00 pm. with recognition of the youth's accomplishments in Worship on March 2nd



Augustana Sunday School

- Feb 8: Hand out Valentines / Noisy Offering
- Feb 16: What is Baptism · Pastor Bob / Noisy Offering



Eksjo's Youth Group

Watch for announcements of upcoming events from Cole Wixo
Movie Nights in February / Dates TBD

Youth Bible Study

1st & 3rd Friday of the month / 7:45 - 8:20 am
held at LPA High School · Room 212



Breakfast
Rotary
 Club of Detroit Lakes
 District 5580

Presents the 14th Annual
Poles and Holes Ice Fishing Derby!
 Saturday, February 8th on Little Detroit Lake
 Get Your tickets and information at
www.icefishingdetroitlakes.org

What Is Poles 'N Holes?

This is our 14th annual Poles N Holes Ice Fishing Derby. Sponsored by the [Detroit Lakes Breakfast Rotary Club](http://www.rotary.org), this derby has raised over \$225,000 in funds to support area literacy, youth sports, senior citizens programs and community projects.

In addition our club supports literacy and water projects throughout the world.

We couldn't have done all we have without the loyal support of our many fishing enthusiasts and sponsors - many who have been with us from the very beginning. **Thank You!**



Laker Prep Early Childhood Center
 Big success starts small.
Infant to school age
 JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
BOUNCY HOUSE BASH
 February 2nd, 2025
 11:00am - 2:30pm
 Detroit Lakes High School

Concessions | Air Brush Tattoos | Snag Golf
 Bubble House | Kids Karaoke | Prizes
 Games & Inflatables provided by Games-to-Go!

Buy Your Tickets **NOW** through the QR Code to the right!
 All children must be supervised; Adults FREE

a BIG thank you to our sponsors...
 Principal Mortgage - Julia Okeason - Town and Country Insurance
 Pro Resources - Hub/Bruggs - Counselor Realty - Weber - Funds Access
 Animal Hospital - BSM Electric - Be Free Cleaning
 Pemberton Law - Subaru - Bremer - Andy Vandam; Edward Jones
 Al Clark Construction - Cathy Fritz - Rick & Kathy Michaelson
 InLine Motion - Dynamic Homes - Dick & Georgia Hecock

UPCOMING FEBRUARY LAMP EVENTS

- * Feb 4: 7:00 pm / Theology on Tap
- * Feb 6: 10:00 am Pastor Leads worship at Sunnyside
- * Feb 12: 5:30 - 7:00 pm Area Youth Valentines party at LPL
- * Feb 13: *Giving Hearts Day
- * Feb 14: Happy Valentines Day
- * Feb 18: 7:00 pm / Theology on Tap
- * Feb 24: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- * Mar 5: Ash Wednesday



Monthly worship and music meetings on the first Tuesdays of the month

Next meeting will be

February 4 at 4:00 pm

People involved and attending the meetings are

Pastor Bob, Bobbie, Diane, Cole, Marlys, Janee, Jean and Dawn.

Any other member from Eksjo or Augustana

are welcome to attend

Thank you!

AREA YOUTH GROUP
VALENTINE'S
Party
SPREAD GOD'S LOVE

FEBRUARY 12TH
5:30PM-7PM

AT LAKE PARK
 LUTHERAN CHURCH



AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN NEWS



Missions Statement: We are a community of people created, empowered to give witness to God's activity in the world.

Visit our website at <http://www.augustanalakeeunice.com/>

Augustana Council

Marlys Skogmo, Pres/Music 218-849-0928
 Arden Shulstad, V Pres/Prop 218-342-3356
 John Osborne, Sec 701-371-2778
 Kathy Michaelson, Treas / Evan 218-847-4951
 Alex Score, SS Treas 218-841-4464
 Mary Rotter, Christian Ed Asst 651-335-0396
 Chris Nybo, Social Ministry 218-847-2527

Music & Worship:

Marlys Skogmo 218-849-0928

Women of Augustana:

Shirley Purington, Pres 218-439-6610



21896 County Hwy 22
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

February Worship: 10:45 am

Weekly Bible Study: Wednesday at 10:00 am

Quilting: Tuesday at 10:00 am

Feb 2: 10:00 am / Women of Augustana Annual Meeting

Feb 6: Pastor leads Worship at Sunnyside

Feb 9: SS hand out Valentines / Noisy Change

Feb 11: 9:30 am Council Meeting

Feb 16: Sunday School / Noisy Change

Feb 24: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February Worship Assistants

Reader

Server

Feb 2: Cheryl

Linda

Feb 9: Austin Nelson

Cheryl & Cristy

Feb 16: Rick

Sue & Robin

Feb 23: Arden

Shirley

February Ushers: Dan & Rhonda Kroschel / Jake Score

****Communion Assistants: Feb 2:** Kay **Feb 9:** Shirley

[Thank you to Etta for baking Communion Bread]

****Etta has baked Communion bread for Communion Sundays.**

It is in the freezer in the kitchen. Please return unused Communion bread to the freezer following Communion Sundays.

Coffee Servers: Please sweep coffee room each Sunday following fellowship and please take home dirty towels/dish rags and wash and return them.

Note: When it's **Cupboard Cookie Sunday** please jump in to help out: set up, make coffee, count the coffee money, sweep, load & start dishwasher, shut off lights and so on ...Thanks!

Usher Duties: Hand out bulletins/greet people; change hymn numbers on hymn board; light altar candles; count offering and fill out a slip to include with the offering and fill out the weekly sheet; count number of worshippers, Communion Sundays (usually the 1st & 2nd Sundays) make sure communion items are in place, fill cup tray and wafers, place wine chalice and grapefruit juice on the altar.

REMEMBER: Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, while you can... **Thank you for all you do!**

Note: Please take time to sign up to read, help with Communion and serve. The sign up is on the bulletin board in the coffee room ... so nice when it's filled out way in advance!

A special note: if you aren't able to actually serve coffee, you can sign up to supply the goodies and the serving will be done by someone who is at church. **Thank You!**

*"I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
He gave me life that I can enjoy all things."*



To donate electronically please scan the PayPal QR code.

Don't forget to turn in your Central Market receipts. The basket is in the Narthex. Shirley picks them up regularly and adds them up! Great refund that Central Market gives to Augustana!



QUILTING
Tuesdays: 10:00 am

Get on your quilting creativity!
Experienced and novice quilters needed!
Tuesdays at 10:00 beginning Feb 4th.
We have two graduation quilts to create!



Augustana Church Meeting Minutes · No Minutes Available

THANK YOU · THANK YOU · THANK YOU

Dear Augustana Lutheran Church,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for supporters like you. Your generosity has been instrumental in enabling us to make a difference in the lives of more than 20,000 people this year. **Thank You!**

Warmest Wishes / Ecumen

Dear members of Augustana Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Becker County Salvation Army, I want to extend a **THANK YOU** for your donation during our Red Kettle Campaign! It is because of generosity, such as yours, that we are able to assist so many families in need of emergency services. Thanks again, your support is greatly appreciated.

Michelle / Salvation Army of Becker County

Thank you Augustana Church Members!

Your generous donation from your sock drive! Socks are much needed, especially in winter.

We appreciate your support!

Lakes Crisis Center

To our friends at Augustana Lutheran Church,

Many thanks for your generosity and kindness shown to our students! We appreciate the big bag of socks you donated to our school! What a wonderful way to bless our children! Thanks to each and every one of you!

Roosevelt Elementary Staff



Everett Score doing the Valentines.



GOD IS LOVE



Ryker & Lily Arne / Etta Rotter making Valentines





Congratulations!
Graduating from LPA
in 2024, Brooklyn Jensen
attends MN Crookston.
At a recent competition
she received 2nd place
overall.



UNDECORATING

Out with the old and in with the new!
Great Christmas undecorating crew:
Mike & Pam, Shirley, Cheryl, Dan & Rhonda,
Arden, Steve, Eric and Rick & Kathy.
Thank You!

Arden S, Eric R, Rhonda K, Cheryl H and
Shirley P



Steve B , Rick M and Arden S



Mike D

Arden S and Rick M

Pam D





EKSJO LUTHERAN NEWS



Mission Statement: Standing in God's grace, we seek to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ in our community and world.

Eksjo Council

Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm

Council Members

- Travis Amundson (701) 238-0126
- Melanie Hanson (Pres) (218) 532-6724
- Lisa Lindstrom (218) 850-4844
- Daryn Minske (218) 849-6334
- Janee Nelson Dehler (612) 619-3879
- Traci Raknerud (218) 841-8232
- Rob Schwartz (218) 532-2358
- Paul Rustad (701) 261-7681



11516 US Hwy 10
Lake Park, MN 56554

February Schedule / Worship: 9:00 am Confirmation Schedule on page 7

- Feb 6: Pastor leads Worship at Sunnyside
- Feb 8: 10:00 am Kindred Sisters / Diane M
- Feb 9: 1:00 - 3:00 pm First Communion Class
- Feb 16: 1:00 - 3:00 pm First Communion Class
- Feb 17: 6:00 pm / Council Meeting
- Feb 23: 1:00 - 3:00 pm First Communion Class
- Feb 24: **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Feb 28: **Scholarship Deadline**

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	Attendance	Offering
12/1/2024	40	\$ 2,431.00
12/8/2024	98	\$ 1,394.00
12/15/2024	85	\$ 7,381.00
12/22/2024	60	\$ 4,062.57
12/24/2024	126	\$ 4,157.00
12/24/2024	71	xxxxxxx
12/31/2024	36	\$ 1,042.00

* * * * *

February Worship Assistants

Refer to your Worship Assistant Booklet for instructions

READERS

- Feb 2: Joyce Newton
- Feb 9: Mary Moeller
- Feb 16: Ruth Lerud
- Feb 23: Holly Christianson

ACOLYTE

- Addison & Easton Welter
- Brookly & Kylie Kirkevold
- Maks Olson / Tydan Eiter
- Molly W / Zylee N

USHERS

- Feb 2: Travis & Melissa Amundson family
- Feb 9: Travis & Melissa Amundson family
- Feb 16: Tim & LaRae Brandt family
- Feb 23: Tim & LaRae Brandt family

****Ushers** you will need to count the offering after church, record it on the spreadsheet behind the Altar, on the sheet indicated who counted it, and who they gave it to, then the offering must be given to a council member or Jeff Sanborn. If its given to a council member, that person would be responsible for dropping it off at Jeff's house. **Make sure you email the Attendance and Offering to Dawn at the office.**

COFFEE SERVERS

- Feb 2: Caroll Clark / LouAnn Olsen
- Feb 9: Tammy Anglin / Gretchen Grande
- Feb 16: Janna Nelson / Jean Schwartz
- Feb 23: Janee Nelson Dehler / Lisa Lindstrom

ALTAR GUILD

February: Tammy Anglin / Rachael Johnson



CHURCH CLEANERS

February: Jacobson family
(There is a weekly cleaning duties sheet, posted on the inside of the cleaning closet door).

Attention Coffee Servers

"If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to switch weekends with someone else. You can find the year's serving schedule in the serving booklet or on the calendar hanging by the dishwasher



Prayer Chain: The prayer chain is in place, but new prayer warriors are always welcome. Call Janet Olson at 218-238-5594 or 218-280-8685 to sign up or to request prayers. **"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."**

Matthew 6:8



Eksjo Church Meeting Minutes • December 16, 2024 (Approved)



* * * * *

Present: Rob Schwartz, Janee Nelson Dehler, Traci Raknerud, Mel Hanson, Daryn Minske, Paul Rustad; Travis Amundson, Pastor Bob Kirchman, Youth Director Cole Wixo, Treasurer Jeff Sanborn

Absent: Lisa Lindstrom

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Bob opened with a devotional and prayer.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve previous minutes by Mel, 2nd Travis, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: \$17,550 ahead of budget. A Tribute in Stone (Headstone lifting co) was paid for the work completed. Youth Director debit card is working (shown as P.O.S. on the bank statement). Discussion about budget items, employment tax / social security for the Youth Director. Motion to approve treasurers report by Daryn, 2nd Travis, motion carried.

Pastors Report: Worship continues to meet and have implemented some subtle things. Further discussion about implementing a TV in the sanctuary to improve worship services and create more options during worship and for events.

Youth Director Report: Cole wrapped up a busy November with weekly events held (see the full report in the newsletter). He is looking to start a High School bible study, he is working on a location, a pickle ball tournament is planned for January. Progress reports have been issued for confirmands. Cole is working VBS / Campership ideas; he may be sending a survey out. There are a number of children and families that have expressed interest in joining Eksjo, we welcome any and all with open arms.

Endowment Committee update: The endowment fund account is up 12.4% this year, if the year-end was now, there could be approximately \$27,000 that could be used towards the Endowment funding requests. Rob will have year-end totals for the Annual meeting with the final amount that could be distributed though requests that are made.

Old Business:

- Oil Rights Attorney Zoom meeting set for January 9th, a reminder will be sent closer to the date.
- Light bulbs will be replaced when the electrician can make it out to the church.
- LAMP discussion with Augustana, Eksjo and the Bishop will be January 6th at 6:00 pm @ Eksjo.
- Cemetery survey tabled until spring.

New Business:

- Donation request from DL Rotary for Poles N Holes event of \$100, motion by Janee to approve, 2nd Travis, carried.
- Grant Application that Lisa created, discussion about it tabled until next month.
- Discussion about Pastor stoles and banners for the sanctuary, we only have 1 set, pastor suggested that we have a full set (4x an estimated \$500 each) and Janee suggested adding additional banners. Motion to approve up to \$3,000 for stoles and banners by Rob, 2nd Daryn, carried. Janee / Pastor to work on the options.
- Annual meeting set for 1/26/2025.
- Motion made to approve the LAMP requested budget of \$110,418.34 made by Rob, 2nd by Travis, carried.
- Eksjo budget was set at \$239,078.34, the large increase was due to the Youth Director that was voted on this year which has now been incorporated into the budget. Other notable increases were seen in the insurance for the church, maintenance items. Motion to approve 2025 budget to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting Rob, 2nd Paul, motion carried.
- Discussion about the TV in the sanctuary continued, Cole with work with Kevin Mitchell to get an idea of what all will be needed to implement everything. Janee purchased a 100" TV in preparation for this, motion to approve the purchase of it up to \$2,000. Daryn, Paul, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Schwartz

Eksjo Annual Church Meeting Minutes • January 26, 2025 (Unapproved)

* * * * *

Council Vice Chair, Paul Rustad, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Lori Thompson appointed as the secretary for the annual meeting.

LAMP Report: Rob Schwartz provided an update on LAMP. Each church has equal representation on LAMP but Eskjo pays 75% of the budget. An updated contract was drafted to hopefully have an agreement at the end of May. Eskjo offered a two-year agreement. LAMP board has no control over setting the actual budget church. With this agreement, councils will have more involvement with the process. LAMP will be dissolved. And restructured to contractual pastoral services. They will get the same services.

Pastor Report: Pastor Bob is currently an interim pastor, but he would like to remain on. Synod Council called him to be here. Eskjo and Augustana will each have their own separate contract. The call here ends in June. Eskjo has officially given a twelve (12) month notice in December that we are leaving LAMP.

2024 Annual Minutes: Jeff Sanborn motioned to approve the minutes with a 2nd from Rob Schwartz. Carried.

Eksjo Budget: Jeff Sanborn presented the 2025 annual budget. The proposed budget is \$239,078.34. The budget for 2024 was \$155,409.35. We have included the youth director position. We are in good financial standing. We earned \$42,216.29 on the money market. We have 8 or 9 oil wells in North Dakota. We have \$47,723 off of those. We work with attorney Elroy Hanson from Mahnomon, MN. He is the attorney that handled David Larson's estate. Mark is an attorney out of Alexandria, MN that has an expertise in oil fields. He is working with us to ensure that we are maximizing our money gain. Contact Janee with any questions regarding oil. We have put funds down to begin pavement of the parking lot. The price is locked down. Contact Daryn Minske with any questions on the parking lot. Dot Francis and Amy Porter completed the audit this morning. Shirley Rustad motioned to approve the 2025 Annual Budget. 2nd by Ruth.

WELCA Report: Ruth Lerud is looking for suggestions on events for WELCA. Please contact her with any suggestions.

Endowment Report: Rob Schwartz noted that the money market is doing better. The balance went from \$482,265.94 to \$541,088.43 which was an 12.2% return. The committee had a Zoom call with the broker. Midsummer, the committee moved funds from a conservative account to a higher interest long term account. The endowment fund was created to help the mission of the church and be able to give back. According to the bylaws, we can give 5% of growth. The committee will make recommendations to the council on projects to approve.

Fair Trade: We are serving the fair trade coffee for worship. Please let Joyce know if there is a certain kind you like.

Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group and Vacation Bible School: Reported by Cole Wixo

Thank you to Jean Olson, Rachel Johnson, Jean Schartz and Bobbi Chatham for all of their help. The younger kids read a story, have music, and then a skit. Pastor Bob has been writing skits that the 5th and 6th graders perform. The Pre-K love it. Vacation Bible School was a success. We used the same format as last year and it has been working well to combine with other churches. For confirmation, we started with 28 students and now have 32-33 students in confirmation. We have a shared youth group with Lake Park Lutheran and Augustana. We do an event about once per month. All youth are invited. Thank you to the Council for the financial support of the events.

New Business:

A new sign is needed for outside. The weather has taken its toll on the sign.

There were questions about the potential of a TV for the church. A TV would be placed to the side. The purpose of the TV would be to play videos, music, and the worship service. It would take people to assist with the technology. This would need to be programed weekly. This would also tie to the website. Janee had purchased a 100 inch television, but it was determined it may have been too soon before we have a formal plan in place.

Kevin Mitchell has assisted us with a new website design. Please send Rob any information you would like added to the website. Kevin has also been assisting with the database for the cemetery. It has not been updated since 2013. Kevin found a widget through a third party. He did add an obituary section.

Janee would like to purchase new banners for the church. If anyone knows of a company that could make them, please let her know.

We need everyone and all suggestions. Please feel free to lend any talents.

continued on next page

Eksjo Annual Church Meeting Minutes • January 26, 2025 (Unapproved) (pg 2)

*** **

Council Position

Bobbi nominated Clayton Hamre. He declined

Diane Midthune nominated Steve Westlund. He accepted the nomination.

Council: Lisa Lindstrom and Steve Westlund

Nominating Committee: Traci Raknerud

Scholarship Committee: Melissa Amundson

Auditors: Dot Francis and Amy Porter

Endowment Committee: Rob Schwartz

Janee moved to approve the positions as listed. 2nd by Jeff Sanborn, Carried.

Jeff motioned to adjourn. 2nd Clayton. Carried

Respectfully submitted by Lori Thompson appointed secretary of the annual meeting.

*** **

Music and Worship Meeting Minutes • January 7, 2025 (unapproved)

*** **

Present: Pastor Bob Kirchman, Dawn M., Diane M., Jean O., Bobbie C.,

I. Devotions: Prayer by Pastor Bob

II. Mission Statement

III. Item

A. Communication with Altar Guild

i. Meet with them in January-Communion Times

ii. Supplies

B. Sunday School Program Worship

C. Cantata Worship

D. Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 and 10:00 pm

E. Survey

i. Images / Pictures Prior to Worship

ii. Words to Songs on Screen / TV

iii. TV in Left Hand Corner to Display
Images during Worship

IV. Select Hymns through January

V. Other Items?

VI. Close with The Lord's Prayer

Actions to Be Taken:

Discuss Survey with Cole W. regarding T.V.

Encourage Bible reading challenge

Cantata Information

*Monthly worship and music meetings
on the first Tuesdays of the month.*

Next meeting will be

February 4 at 4:00 pm

*People involved and attending the
meetings are*

*Pastor Bob, Bobbie, Diane, Cole,
Marlys, Janee, Jean and Dawn.*

Any other member from

Eksjo or Augustana

are welcome to attend

Thank you

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Bob Kirchman





SCHOLARSHIPS: After the passing of Tillman Helgeson in 1990, his wife Maureen (Maureen passed away May 31, 2019) very generously donated \$10,000 to begin the Eksjo Scholarship Fund. Since that time at least two scholarships have been given each year to Eksjo members pursuing post-secondary education. The applicants need to have successfully completed one semester of a one year program or one year of a two-four year program. Please contact Andrea Pollock to get a copy of the scholarship application.

(701) 541-5923. Please have them turned in by February 28th.

* * * * *



Church Cleaning Schedule Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board before you enter the kitchen area.
Months Needed : April, July, August and December.

* * * * *

Eksjo's new



Rob is working on redesigning the Eksjo website, he needs assistance from members to provide the **Content** for the website such as history, stories, ideas, pictures, etc. Please reach out to him at 612-804-8082 or rschwartz50@hotmail.com

* * * * *

First Communion classes will start in February. Anyone interested, please contact Pastor Bob. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons on February 9th, 16th & 23rd: 1:00 - 3:00 pm. with recognition of the youth's accomplishments in Worship on March 2nd

* * * * *



We will be creating a supplement page to the church directory. If you missed getting your picture in before, please send one in now. Also, please take time to review the already published book and let me know if your information needs to be edited. Thank you, Janee Nelson Dehler. / janeedeehler@hotmail.com or text to 612-619-3879.

* * * * *

Proud of Our Youth!

Tripp Eiter son of Toby & Kristina Eiter
 Keela Johnson daughter of Sonja Johnson
 Great Job!!



Thank you

Eiter and Johnson Nominated for Triple A Award




Tripp Eiter
 Congratulations to Tripp Eiter and Keela Johnson on being nominated to represent LPA for the Triple A Award!
 The Academic, Arts and Athletics Award, commonly known as the

Keela Johnson
 Triple "A" Award honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher grade point average and who participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine art activities.

Dear Eksjo WELCA,
 THANK YOU for hosting the January Coffee Chat at the museum. The chats are a lovely way for people to gather and meet. We appreciate your help and support!
 Warmly,
 The Historical Society

Youth Pickle Ball • 1-26-2025

18 students participated in the Pickle Ball games held at LPA School



Addi



Ray



Lydia



Cole having fun with the boys!

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board before you enter kitchen area

March: Dot Francis / Lynn Sanborn

April: **NEED**

May: Ruth Lerud

June Steve & Diane Midthune

July: **NEED**

August: **NEED**

September: Thompson family

October: Abbot family

November: Amundson family

December: **NEED**

Weekly cleaning duties

Sanctuary and Sunday School area

- Roomba vacuums sanctuary every Monday, Sunday school room every Tuesday
- Vacuum front entry/steps, main and back stairway, altar area **as needed**.
- Take out trash (balcony, entry, Sunday school area there are 2 garbage bins)
- Tidy pews/hymnals

Bathrooms

- Clean sink area and toilets weekly. Liquid soap refill is in the closet
- Clean mirrors
- Take out trash
- Restock personal care items, if needed
- Vacuum/mop floor as needed. If mopping, only use water
- Restock toilet paper and paper towel. The key for the paper towel dispenser is hanging in the cleaning closet on the north wall

Fellowship area

- Vacuum weekly
- Straighten chairs

Kitchen

- Vacuum/mop floors as needed. Mop/bucket in cleaning closet. Only use water on these floors.
- Take out trash (4 garbage cans)
- If needed, take home dishcloths to launder
- Take recycling (blue bins) to county recycling bins

Vacuums

- Main vac is in the cleaning closet. There is a cordless vac in the kitchen. Extra filters are in the closet too.
- If you find the Roomba stuck somewhere or with a dead battery, just place it on the home base near the pulpit area in the sanctuary.