AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 8 November 2026

Special points of interest:

- Office Hours
- AMEN Chorus
- Upcoming Dates to Remember
- Poinsettias
- Holiday Decorating
- Can you help? Assisting Minister Sign-up

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Pastor's Page



"Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

(Matthew 14:16)

On October 14th I accidently fell. I thought that the damage to my body was minimal and superficial. Thankfully Pastor Phil helped me with my Sunday morning duties. However, on the 20th I discovered that I had actually broken a small, non-weight bearing bone in my ankle. Since then I've had to spend a great deal of time keeping my foot up so it heals properly. Not surprisingly I've been having a difficult time getting anything else done.

For this month's messenger article I'm sharing some thoughts from a pre-Advent program called *Eat and Remember the Poor*, which I created during my internship, I've also included the lyrics to a song that I wrote. My text comes from Matthew 14-21 and Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish. My point isn't so much about the miracle of Jesus. It's more about his telling his disciples that they need to feed the hungry. His instructions still apply today. It's our collective responsibility to feed the hungry; to ensure that everyone has enough food to eat. I think it's really important for us to remember, especially during this time of the year when so many of our celebrations are centered around bountiful meals.

My song also raises the question of whether or not Jesus ever had to go hungry. Something for all of us to reflect upon.

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Don't Let It Get Under Your Skin

Holidays are meant to bring joy, yet they can easily become stressful. A careless comment, an unmet expectation or a simple misunderstanding may lead to hurt feelings and family tension. Before long, a small disagreement can grow into an argument that overshadows the celebration.



In moments like these, remember the wise teacher who chose to let slights and insults pass. He explained, "I have only one skin, and it covers me very well. I don't let anyone else get under it."

This holiday season, choose patience, extend grace and protect the peace around your table.

Augustana's Monthly Food Collection

Thank you Augustana! Once again you have exceeded all expectations and have donated enough canned fruit to Uplift so that we can place a can of fruit in each bag we pack.

That is at least 152 bags with a few cans left over. We have decided to save the fruit and place the cans in the Thanksgiving bags.



Gifts for Kids

Gifts for Kids is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. Set up at the Evart Middle School will begin at **3:00 on Friday, December 11**. We will load up our games around 2:00 on Friday. Help is needed to load up and set up that day. Please talk with Jan Marckwardt if you can help on that Friday.

Our game inventory is very good and there is no need to collect games again this year. Due to the monetary generosity of our congregation, games are purchased throughout the year. The event is for families in Osceola County and they must preregister to participate. New games, toys, household goods, hats and mittens as well as grocery vouchers are available with no cost to families.



Pastor Sharon (left) was honored October 11th during Pastor Appreciation Day.

WELCA NEWS

Reminder: WELCA is meeting every other month. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 17** at 10:30 a.m. All women of Augustana are invited to attend our meetings. Please come and help us plan events and projects for 2027.



continued from front page….

Eat and Remember the Hungry

Eat and remember the hungry.
Sisters and brothers in Christ
We are one in the struggle
What are we called to do?

Eat and remember the hungry
Jesus says we must feed the poor.
We have been chosen by God
To serve the poor in our midst,
When we sit down to dine,
We have plenty to eat.
Our earth is filled with riches
Lord show us how to share
No one should ever go hungry,
Why do people starve?

Eat and remember the hungry,
Jesus says we must feed the poor.
Nurturing God of love
Please hear us as we pray
In this season of plenty
Help us remember the poor
Why were you born in a stable?
Why did you dwell with the poor?
Jesus were you ever without food?
Did our Christ ever starve?
Lord, you gave us your own body,
Even shed your own blood
As we join in communion,
Let us be the body of Christ.

Eat and remember the hungry,
Jesus says we must feed the poor.

I was hungry and you
gave me food,
I was thirsty and you
gave me something to drink.
Matthew 25:35, NRSV



Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Sharon

Church Mission Statement

"We are called through Jesus the Christ to nurture spiritual growth, welcome all into worship and serve the needs of others."



CHURCH COUNCIL

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Becky Miller	231-920-7883	beckymiller81@live.com
Vice-President	Mike Barnes	231-884-7128	birdhunterup@gmail.com
Secretary	Julie Seguin	231-878-3119	jkseguin@gmail.com
Treasurer	Terry Marckwardt	231-872-0149	etmarck@sbcglobal.net
Members:	Denna Light	231-499-9560	dlight@netonecom.net
	Jim Carmody	231-288-0731	sjcarmody85@yahoo.com
	Brian Hammar	231-920-4087	bhammar@att.net
	Kurt Hammar	231-578-1153	heatherhamar1@gmail.com

A.M.E.N. Chorus

Christmas Concert

ALSO FEATURING

Women's Philharmonic Chorus

Bells of Peace Handbell Choir

AND

Area Youth Choir

at the Cadillac High School Auditorium

Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 P.M. and
Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 P.M.



Directed by **Angela Warner**
Accompanied by: Sandy Bode,
Jennifer Schierbeck and
area instrumentalists

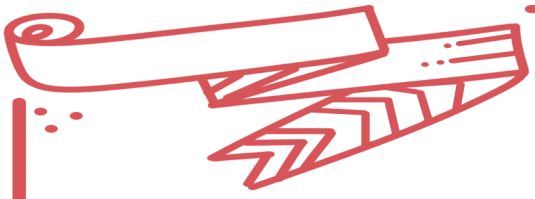
FREE ADMISSION

A free will offering will be received.

Food Pantry Sunday -November 29

November is food collection month for the Food Pantry. This month the Food Pantry has asked for **boxed** cereal any size and any kind.

Augustana's generosity is greatly appreciated by the Food Pantry. With winter coming and Christmas right around the corner, the need for food by families is greater. We can help keep bellies full with a box or two of cereal in November.



A big thank you to Bill Krisch from Krisch Tree Removal Service. Last week, Bill generously used his equipment and time to make repairs to Augustana's flag pole...at no charge to the church! It's a reminder of what community is all about! Also thank you to Brian, Mike and George for making this happen.

Take Me to the River

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River.

Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.

—adapted from *Homiletics.com*

November 2026 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
Nov 1	Becky Miller	Sue Carmody	Sewing Ladies		Jim Carmody		Sue Klingler
Nov 8	Julie Seguin						
Nov 15							
Nov 22					Barb Hazlett		Brunch
Nov 29 Food Pantry Sunday							

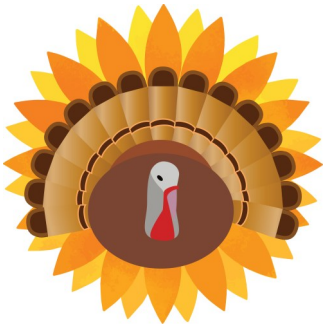




PRAYER CONCERNS: Anissa, Lexi, Michelle & The Bush Family, Michael C., Pat Otberg, Pam McCalla, David Garrett, Carlton, Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

All Saints' Day, November 1, 2026
Daylight saving time ends, November 1, 2026
Food Pantry, November 3, 2026 9-11am
Council Meeting, November 8, 2026 10:15am
Veterans Day, November 11, 2026
Food Pantry, November 16, 2026 9-11am
WELCA, November 17, 202610:30am
Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2026
Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2025
First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2026
Deadline for December Messenger, November 30, 2026





Please join us!
November 22nd after service to decorate for the holiday season.





Office Closed
November 26th—Happy Thanksgiving
December 24th—Merry Christmas
December 31st—Happy New Year



Sign-up to honor loved ones with poinsettias is now available! Cost is the same as last year, just $5. Money is due to Heather H. by **Sunday, November 22**.

Happy Anniversary

George and Sue Klingler – Nov. 23

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9am - 1pm

e-mail: azlcp@att.net
www.augustanatustin.com



Happy Birthday!

Robert Light – Nov. 1
Leslie Christie– Nov. 3
Denna Light – Nov. 7





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Pastor: 740-296-9176

Please kindly deliver to:

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day Savings Time Ends	2 Food Pantry 9-11am	3 	4	5	6	7
8 Council Mtg 10:15am	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14
15 Good Luck Hunters!	16 Food Pantry 9-11am	17 WELCA 10:30am	18	19	20	21
22 Christ the King  Decorate	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27	28
29 	30 Newsletter Due					