

# MARCH 2024

## Augustana Lutheran Church Messenger

Pastor - Sharon Van Dam

Secretary - Angela Christie

Pianist - Patty Surguy

Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Monday – Thursday



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

18499 Twenty Mile Rd.; P.O. Box 198

Tustin, MI 49688

Sunday Worship: 9am

Phone: 231-829-3837



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

Church Mission Statement

# Pastor's Message

*"Jesus began to weep."* (John 11:35)



The last couple of months have been a intense time of learning for me. Watching my children's difficult journey of their father's weeks in hospice care, his death, and his celebration of life memorial. My years as a pastor and time as a funeral chaplain gave me a false sense of my own ability to understand the grieving process.

Intellectually I understood that everyone experiences grief and death in their own way. That there isn't really one correct way to go through the grieving process. That experiencing grief is hard but necessary work.

During my time at the funeral home, I saw first hand examples of people's vastly differing responses to grief. I've seen family members resort to angry words and fighting during funeral planning. Sometimes a family member would just leave the discussion, sometimes they resorted to shouting, once I had one shout obscenities to me as I delivered his wife's funeral message. Other times I saw what might be described as inappropriate use of humor. One time a son invited people to join him in doing push ups in from of his father's casket. And of course I saw many, many tears falling from people's eyes. I learned how to officiate funerals and offer comfort to people during viewings and how to keep my own emotions under control.

As much as I thought I understood, I was unprepared for the various and confusing emotions I found myself experiencing during this difficult time. Of course I was sad that the father of my children, the man I had been married to for 15 years, was suffering a very painful death. It was hard to know my children were hurting and that there really wasn't anything I could do to take away their pain. But other unwelcome emotions also surfaced including the harsh reality of divorce oddly coupled with joy that each of us had found someone we truly loved to spend the rest of lives with. Unexpected tears would suddenly appear. I had the mistaken notion that if I just allowed myself to sit down and cry until the tears were gone I'd be done with the grief process. I was wrong.

However during this time I also had a chance to really think about Jesus crying at the grave of his friend Lazarus. Even though he knew he would soon call him from the grave Jesus took the time to weep for Lazarus. I truly believe this is one of Bible's most important lessons. Grief is an inevitable part of life. If Jesus wasn't ashamed or embarrassed to cry for his friend, we shouldn't be either. Perhaps understanding that our Lord and Savior experienced grief will being comfort to us during the hard times in life that happen to all of us.

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

# AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## APPROVED MINUTES

December 18, 2023



The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:45.

Devotional read by Connie – The Christmas Star

Members: George Klingler, Jim Carmody, Heather Hammar, Ken Forsberg, Connie Burgess, Julie Seguin.

Guest: Terry Marckwardt, Treasurer.

Agenda: Motion by Connie to approve agenda as presented, with support from Jim. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by George to approve the amended minutes from November 20, 2023, with support from Ken. Carried.

Financial Reports: Motion by Julie to approve the amended treasurer and financial secretary reports, supported by Connie. Carried.

No communications.

Building/Grounds Report – George. The new sound system installation is complete and the new system is a huge improvement.

### Old Business:

Decision to cancel church services – Pastor Sharon will contact Becky with illness or bad roads.

Phone Announcement – Becky will send a message this week regarding 12/24 service.

Renucci House noisy offering of \$369.28 was mailed with a letter. Correction the money was deposited in the general fund, and a check was written from there to be mailed.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee met for the second time. Budget of \$2,000 to start with. There will be sign up sheets available for volunteering.

Xerox machine information was announced in the December 11 & 18 bulletin inserts. The dates of the announcement was moved up as more difficulties came up with the current machine. A special congregational vote will be held on 12/31/23 as to replacement of the Xerox machine.

Christmas gifts for staff will be presented to Pastor Sharon and Patty on Christmas Eve. Kim and Angela's gifts will be delivered to the church during the week.

### New Business:

Order of Service and Liturgy update – Jim has met with Pastor Sharon to discuss the expectations of the working flow between Pastor and Angela. Jim will be the liaison to help communicate between the Pastor and Secretary. A meeting is planned for January 7.

Christmas Eve – we're ready. All jobs have been filled.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 with the Lord's Prayer.

Jim will read the devotional next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

## WELCA Meeting

Approved Minutes  
November 21, 2023



The meeting was called to order at 10:27 a.m. by President Jeanette Otberg.

Those present: Barb Hazlett and Jan Marckwardt

Jeanette Otberg read a devotional from "God's Little Devotional Book".

Correspondence: Request for funds from New Hope Center. Approved \$75 to be sent to them.

The Minutes from September 19, 2023 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved.

The Treasurer's Report for September and October 2023 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved. The balance in the account as of October 31, 2023 is \$493.87.

Barb Hazlett read the WELCA purpose statement.

OLD BUSINESS: Packing bags for HeadStart has been placed on hold.

NEW BUSINESS: The quilting ladies have been asked to help sew a quilt for Augustana's 150th anniversary which takes place in July 2024. The congregation will be asked to help by submitting squares for the quilt. Many thanks to Joan Chave` for agreeing to take on this project.

Barb Hazlett reports that the WELCA Board recently met. The spring gathering will be April 27, 2024 and will be held at Bethlehem in Traverse City. There is a B&B in Traverse City which donates half of their proceeds to survivors of human trafficking. Recently eleven survivors were treated to a weekend at the B&B.

NEXT MEETING: There will be no WELCA meeting in December. The next scheduled meeting will be January 16, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:55 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jan Marckwardt

## Augustana Members-

The quilt group needs your help!

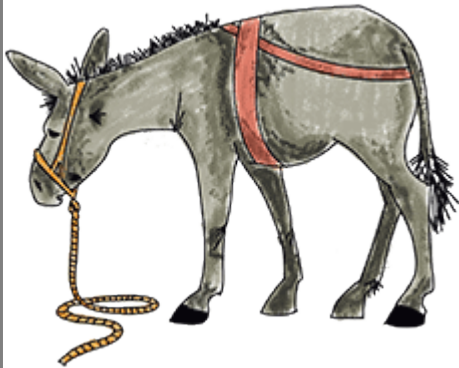
A quilt is being planned for the 150th Anniversary. We are asking members to decorate a 6X6" square for the quilt. We need you to get your creative juices flowing. Starting in late February, we will have samples out so you can decide what your square will look like. We'll provide fabric markers. All artistic endeavors are **DUE April 24th**, no exceptions, so our project can be completed on time.



Thanks, The Quilters



The dates for VBS are **July 15-19, 2024**. "I wanted to extend an invitation for 2 volunteers to help. We are in need of one volunteer for Snack Preparation and one volunteer to be a floater each night to help wherever needed. We are asking for volunteers early so we can start having regular VBS meetings beginning in April and, of course, wanted to get the dates out for summer planning purposes. If this is something that two of your members would like to volunteer for, please let Kelly Fox of Tustin Covenant Church know by April 1st."



### Be the donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

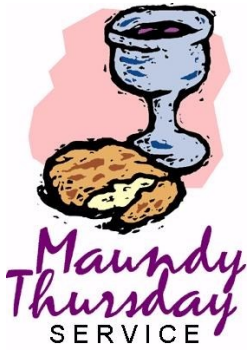
"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

**PRAYER**  
list...

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Janice Peterson; Anissa; Mary Annette Gorden; Family of Dave Dickinson; Vicky Grandi; Jack Forsberg; Mary R; Family of Daniel Corliss.; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.





**Maundy Thursday  
Service  
March 28, 2024  
at 6pm**



**Remember to turn  
your clocks forward  
March 10th**

## **WELCA News**



One of the bigger projects that WELCA does every year is to make up bags of individual supplies for the Pine River HeadStart program. We purchase items such as scissors, crayons, glue, Play Doh, and books, etc. and put all these goodies into plastic tote bags for the children. This year the funds came from Augustana's Scrip program and WELCA is very grateful. The number of students has increased and 35 bags were filled and delivered to HeadStart in February.

None of this could have happened without volunteer support from Sue Klingler, and Doreen and Mike Barnes. An unforeseen accident and then illness for several of our members made this year's shopping and bag packing difficult. Doreen and Mike stepped in and helped WELCA to complete this project. Also a big thank you goes to Bernie Gorden. He, too was a big help getting the bags together. WELCA is very grateful to them and the time they spent on the project for us.

We are already planning to provide HeadStart with supply bags next school year but hope not to run into the difficulties that we encountered this year. Thanks again, Doreen and Mike, for



## **Super Fans**

Although our beloved Lions put forth some good effort this year, we sadly didn't get to see them advance to the Super Bowl. However, our sports fans (looking fabulous on left) still served on Super Bowl Sunday supporting what would be the winning team.





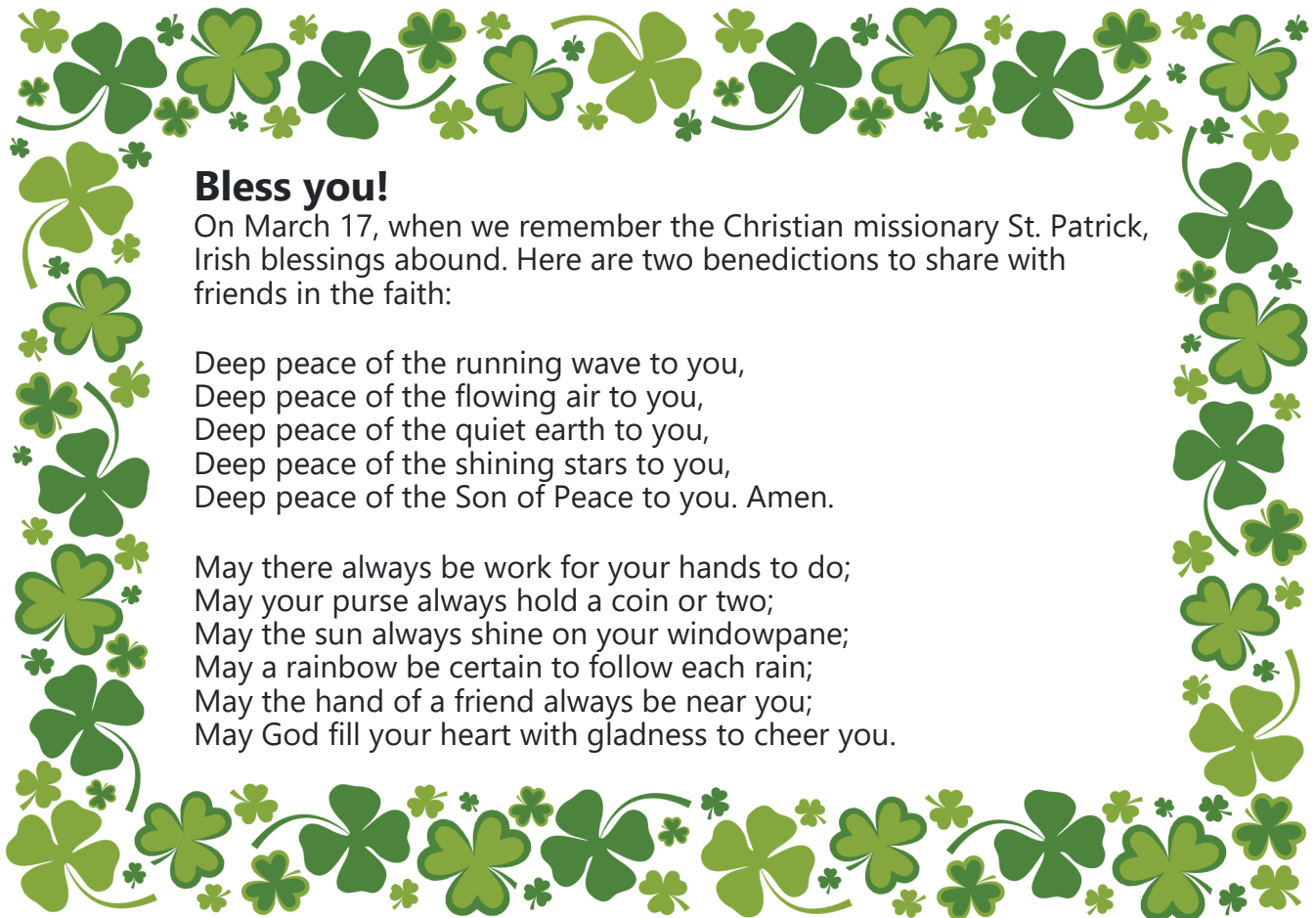
A SPECIAL  
*Anniversary*

Please Join Us!

**Saturday, March 9th from 1-3pm**  
for an open house celebrating  
**Carlton & Shelby Plyler's**  
**70th Wedding Anniversary.**

Please RSVP by March 1st to Deb Gelscheit at 847-707-6500.

Cards are appreciated but please no gifts!



**Bless you!**

On March 17, when we remember the Christian missionary St. Patrick, Irish blessings abound. Here are two benedictions to share with friends in the faith:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

May there always be work for your hands to do;  
May your purse always hold a coin or two;  
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;  
May the hand of a friend always be near you;  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

**Osceola County recycling** in LeRoy resumes March 2nd, and is open the first Saturday of the month 9:00 AM-11:00 AM, at the Village Garage, 220 Kent Street in LeRoy. They accept:



Cardboard (not waxed), newspaper, glossy magazines, all paper, books with covers removed, most #1 plastic (clear only, no clear produce containers), most #2 plastic (separate milk jugs, please), aluminum cans, tin cans, Styrofoam (not packing peanuts), clear glass (but not window pane glass). Please remove lids/caps. If you have any questions, call Brian Cool at 231-768-4624.

## March 2024 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
<b>March 3</b>	Heather Hammar	Becky Miller	Becky Miller	Doug & Becky Miller	Harvey Miller	Heather Hammar	Sue Klingler
<b>March 10</b>				Connie Burgess & Ken Forsberg	Joan Swanson	George Klingler & Arv Otberg	Connie Burgess & Ken Forsberg
<b>March 17</b>			Arvid & Jeanette Otberg	Arvid & Jeanette Otberg			Jeanette Otberg
<b>March 21</b> Palm Sunday	Julie Seguin	Sue Carmody			Jim Carmody	Julie Seguin	Jan Marckwardt
<b>March 28</b> Maundy Thursday 6pm	Julie Seguin					X	X
<b>March 31</b> Easter	Julie Seguin	Becky Miller	Becky Miller		Jim Carmody	Julie Seguin	X



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Food Pantry, *March 4, 2024 9-12pm*
- Carlton & Shelby's 70th Party, *March 9, 2024 1-3pm*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- Council Meeting, *March 18, 2024 6:30pm*
- Food Pantry, *March 18, 2024 9-12pm*
- WELCA Meeting, *March 19, 2024 10:30am*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Deadline for April Messenger, *March 26*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28, 2024 at 6pm*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*



### Happy Birthday!

Megan Hammar – March 7  
Ruth Hammar – March 19  
Terry Marchwardt – March 24  
Jan Marckwardt – March 25  
Becky Miller – March 28  
Kate Miller – March 30  
Ken Goddard – March 30  
George Klingler – March 30

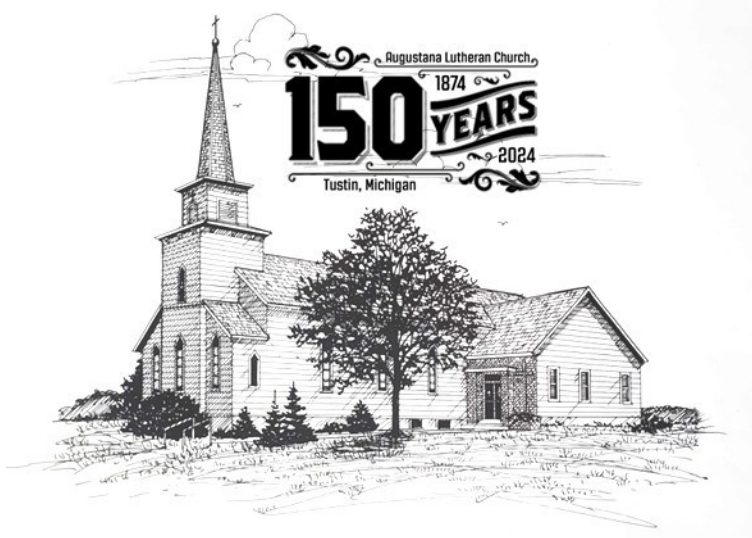


### Happy Anniversary

Carlton and Shelby Plyler – March 6

## SAVE THE DATE

July 14th 2024 We celebrate 150 years!



### By faith

'Tis by the faith of joys to come  
We walk through deserts dark as night,  
Till we arrive at heaven our home.  
Faith is our guide, and faith our light. ...

Cheerful we tread the desert through,  
While faith inspires a heavenly ray,  
Though lions roar and tempests blow  
And rocks and dangers fill the way.







So Abraham, by divine command,  
Left his own house to walk with God;  
His faith beheld the promised land,  
And fired his zeal along the road.

—Early American hymn



# March 2024

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 	Bell Choir every Wednesday 6pm 		1	2 
3	4 Food Pantry 9-12pm 	5	6	7	8	9 Plyler's Open House 1-3pm
10 Daylight Savings Begins	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Mtg 6:30pm	19 WELCA 10:30am Spring Begins	20	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 	25	26 March Newsletter Due	27	28 Maundy Thursday Service 6pm	29 Good Friday	30
31  Easter Sunday						