



OCTOBER



2023

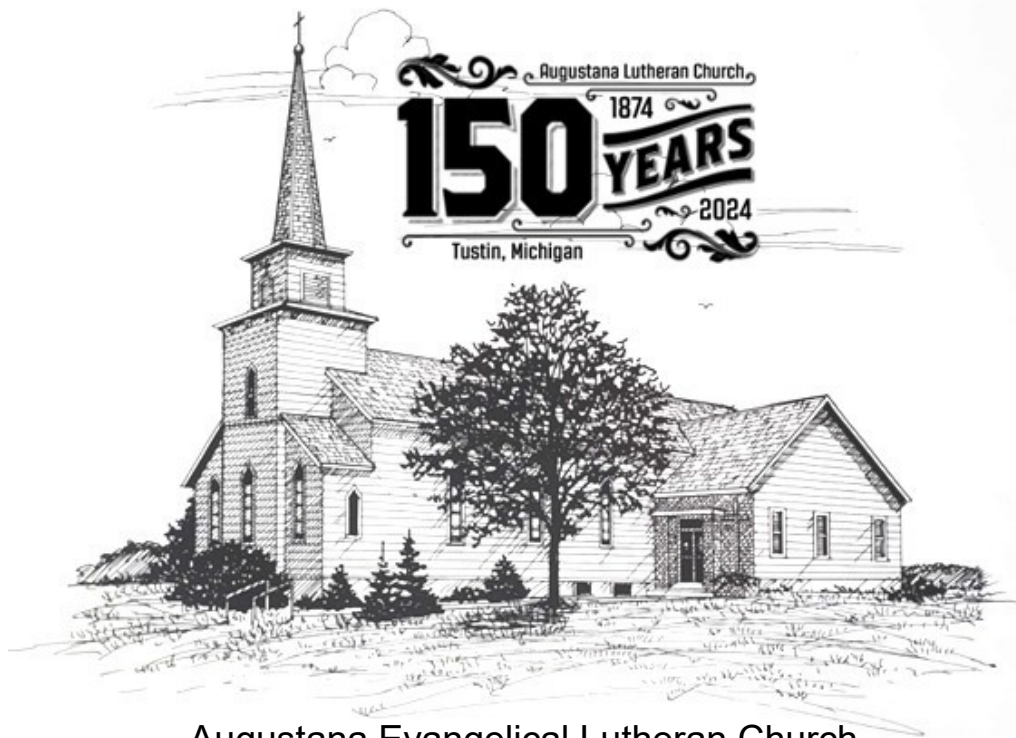
Augustana Lutheran Church

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: 9 am

Church Office: 231-829-3837

www.augustanatustin.org

*"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



I have to admit that I enjoy playing Mahjong; a computer game. The goal is to find and match a number of different tiles (squares), which each level of play becoming more difficult. Rather than count my playing time as a non-productive, useless waste of time, I prefer to view it as exercise for my brain. However, when I've been busy searching for matching tiles, I've also begun to think a lot about the ever-present nature of God's love and grace.

While initially this may seem like an odd comparison, I'm beginning to see some real similarities. I don't know how many matching tiles each game has. I've never counted them and they're all either Chinese letters or symbols. I do know that there are lots of them and because of the way they're arranged each level becomes more difficult to play. I've learned that the way my brain initially responds to the harder levels is to assure me that there is no way for me to find all the matches. And unless I make a conscious effort to ignore those thoughts and trust that I can find what I'm seeking, my efforts result in failure. But if I trust that the matches are there and believe that I have the ability to find them, my results are much more satisfactory.

I can't help thinking that playing this game can be compared to finding God's presence in our busy, often hectic, everyday lives. Most of us believe that God's presence is always with us, but let's face it, sometimes life's realities make it difficult to see. Our lives are often overwhelmingly complicated, full of distractions, noises, and frustrations. Sometimes we feel alone, perhaps even abandoned by God. A feeling also shared by many of the Old Testament prophets. But the Good News, the really, really good news, is that God is always present with us. God is always there offering us grace and love. But sometimes, in difficult times we have to look hard to see it. And when we trust in God's loving presence, we will find it.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

Augustana Council

Augustana Lutheran Church approved minutes

August 21, 2023



The meeting was called to order by Becky at 6:31p.m.

Devotional was offered by Julie.

Members present: Becky Miller, Heather Hammar, Julie Seguin, Jim Carmody, Ken Forsberg, George Klingler, and Connie Burgess. Guest Terry Marckwardt.

Agenda: With an addition of online banking added to new business the agenda was approved with a motion by Julie, and support from George.

Election of officers: Nominations were made and supported by council with a vote, the new officers are as follows.

President: Becky Miller Vice President: Heather Hammar Secretary: Julie Seguin Building and Grounds: George Klingler Personnel committee: Jim Carmody and Connie Burgess

Minutes: A motion to approve July 17, 2023 minutes was made by George, with support from Ken, motion carried.

Treasurers report: A motion to accept the treasurers and financial secretary report was made by Julie, with support from Jim, motion carried.

Communications: Thank you note for school supplies was read.

Building and grounds: George reported that he will be seeking bids for snow removal.

Personnel: Julie reported that all was good.

Old business:

Sound system: Half of the payment has been made, and the equipment has been ordered.

Parsonage: A new receiver has been ordered and will be installed.

Rennucci House: a fall date will be set with Ken, Connie, Ted, and Mary providing a meal.

New business:

Mike Barnes is looking into power washing the front of the church.

Pastor Sharron communicated perhaps posting pictures on Facebook of happenings, and staff pictures.

Flu shots will have a possible October date.

Pastor has asked for communion assistants to please stand a bit further away for people to have more time.

Greeters will take up the offering from the back, during the offering prayer.

Planning for the 150th anniversary of the church in 2024 needs to begin. Perhaps a committee can be formed and people can start offering ideas.

A motion was made by Ken Forsberg to eliminate the church computer as the primary source for online banking and give it to Terry Marckwardt, giving him a new username and password. This will enable him to have access to the church's online banking at LOSB. The motion was supported by Julie, and a unanimous vote was made to do so.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned with the Lords' Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Heather Hammar

WELCA Meeting

Approved Minutes

August 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by President Jeanette Otberg.

Those present: Barb Hazlett, Jan Marckwardt, Sandy Goddard, and Mary Raven.

There was a brief discussion regarding Katie's Fund. Barb Hazlett explained that the Women of the ELCA set up this fund to honor Katie Luther wife of Martin Luther by supporting global connection.

Jeanette Otberg read a devotional titled "Pass it On".

Correspondence: None

The Minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were presented with a motion to accept by Sandy Goddard and second by Barb Hazlett. The Minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Reports for June 2023 and July 2023 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were presented. The balance in the account as of July 31, 2023 is \$659.80. A motion to accept by Mary Raven with support from Sandy Goddard was approved.

Sandy Goddard read the **WELCA purpose statement**.

OLD BUSINESS: Our Christmas in July event held at Cast Iron Kitchen in Cadillac was a great success. We had at least 20 women present and everyone had a wonderful time. The celebration of Shelby Plyler's birthday at the luncheon was enjoyed by everyone.

We have confirmation that our September 19 meeting will be held at Green Acres in Cadillac at 10:30.

Barb Hazlett mentioned that the movie "Sound of Freedom" presented at the Rivertown Celebration Cinema was excellent.

NEW BUSINESS: Barb Hazlett reported that the \$100 donation approved last meeting to the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF) will be returned to WELCA as the MHTTF has disbanded. Barb suggested a donation to "Living Waters" at Christmas to sponsor one child to the camp. Barb also brought to our attention the Harm Reduction Summit on August 30, 2023 and she also reminded WELCA of the September retreat to be held at Eagle Village on September 29 and 30.

NEXT MEETING: The next WELCA meeting will be held at Green Acres in Cadillac on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:03 with the Lord's Prayer.



Respectfully Submitted
Jan Marckwardt

WELCA News



WELCA once again held their meeting at Greenacres with Shelby and Myrna present along with many other women. It was very enjoyable for everyone with cookies and coffee available. There was plenty of storytelling, news sharing, praying, and of course, regular meeting business. Naturally a visit with Carlton was included. WELCA welcomes all women to join in on our meetings. We normally meet at Augustana on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30. The October meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th and we will be packing supply bags for Pine River HeadStart. Please plan to join us.



Starting a ripple effect

Shortly before his death, 80-year-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the money came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Cultivating our life's harvest

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." --John 10:10

Fall harvest provides a wonderful analogy for how, as stewards of our lives, we are responsible for making the most of our time on earth.

Farmers plant, water, fertilize and harvest, but they do not actually *create* the life that produces crops. Life comes only from God. Farmers only *manage and optimize* the properties and processes of life that God engineered into their plants.

Smart farmers know what soil is best, what fertilizer, and how much water to give each particular plant. By nurturing their plants with care and attention, farmers generate the best and most productive harvests.

So it is with us! God created and engineered us to thrive! Our task is to manage and optimize our lives so that we can experience the abundant life that Jesus talks about in John 10:10. We have the rich soil of family, friends and church community relationships. We have the water of God's Word, love, forgiveness, salvation and grace. We have the fertilizer of wholesome, nourishing food.

How can we cultivate our lives? We can:

- Water our faith through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love and service.
- Tend the soil of relationships by loving our families, neighbors and church community.
- Optimize our physical health by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep.
- Nourish our intelligence and wisdom through education, reading, exploring and continually learning.

Farmers reap plentiful harvests by caring for plants in ways that God ordained would provide the best growth. By caring for ourselves in ways that God designed for us, we can enjoy that life abundant that Jesus promises.

--Rob Blezard

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PRAYER CONCERNS*: Peggy Burns; Sandie Leach; Carlton Plyler; Tom H.; Andrea Foster; Julie Bierema; Janice Peterson; Scott Thompson; Jeff N.; Scott Martinson; Beverly Reimer; the family of Sophia Hinkley; Marian Byers; Greg Emanoil; Anissa; Barb Hazlett; Louise Barnes; Bob Light; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

PRAYER
list

Joy in the Word of God

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.



—The Table Talk of Martin Luther



150th Anniversary Committee-

How will we celebrate? Sign-up to help start planning

Raise Right gift card fund raiser orders are due October 1st. Please return your order to Becky.

Road clean-up will be held October 8th after service.

Flu shots will be available October 15th after service. Remember your insurance card!

Renucci House— October 18th

Donate desserts or volunteer to serve. Sign-up in on the table



DEWING CENTER • 202 S. Albert St • LeRoy, MI

Saturday October 14th at 7pm

Straight Forward Bluegrass with "The Digger"

Straight Forward Bluegrass is a northern Michigan band instilled in hard-driving traditional bluegrass that also brings home a good time with some originals, and traditional gospel and country. With three albums released and a full touring schedule, Dewings Center is honored to welcome back this hard working band and to welcome for the first time, The Digger! Price: Donation of Any Amount at the Door

October 2023 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
October 1	Doreen Barnes	Ken & Sandy Goddard	Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Ted & Mary Raven	Michael Barnes	Ted Raven	Becky Miller
October 8	Becky Miller	Ken Goddard	Sandy Goddard	Larry Laurel Bonnie Smith	Michael Barnes	Becky Miller Ruth Hammar	Sandy Goddard
October 15 FLU SHOTS	Julie Seguin	Becky Miller	Becky Miller	Ted & Mary Raven	Mary Raven	Heather Hammar	Jan Marckwardt
October 22	George Klingler		George & Sue Klingler		Harvey Miller		Sue Klingler
October 29		X	X		Joan Swanson		

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- Sun., Oct. 1st – Raise Right gift card fundraiser due
- Mon., Oct. 2nd – Food Pantry 9-12pm
- Sun., Oct. 8th following the Worship Service – Road clean-up
- Mon., Oct 9th - Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day
- Sun., Oct. 15th – Flu Shots (Bring your insurance card!)
- Mon., Oct. 16th – Food Pantry 9-12pm
- Mon., Oct. 16th at 6:30 PM – Council Meeting
- Tues., Oct. 17th at 10:30 AM – WELCA meeting
- Wed., Oct. 18th Renucci House
- Thurs., Oct. 26th - Deadline for November MESSENGER
- Sun., Oct. 29th – Reformation Sunday
- Mon., Oct. 31st at 5-7 PM – Village of Tustin Trunk or Treat



Happy Birthday!

Doreen Barnes – October 7
Angela Christie – October 11
Joan Chave` - October 17
Jack Forsberg – October 26
Duane Christie – October 26
Ken Benkert – October 31



Happy Anniversary

Angela and Duane Christie – Oct. 11
Mike and Doreen Barnes – Oct. 17

“October” by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow’s wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes’ sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes’ sake along the wall.

Thank
you

Thank you to all the lady quilters for my beautiful lap blanket.

My knee replacement was very successful and I’m on the run again!

Thanks for all the prayers and well wishes.

Love you all,

Ruth Hammar



October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Gift Card order due	2 Food Pantry 9-12pm 	3 Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 	4	5	6	7 Recycling 9-11am 
8 Adopt-a-road clean up	9  Indigenous Peoples Day	10	11	12	13	14
15 FLU SHOT CLINIC 	16 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	17 WELCA Meeting 10:30am	18 Renucci House	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 November Newsletter Due	27	28
29 REFORMATION SUNDAY 	30	31  Halloween				