

# SEPTEMBER 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](http://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

*"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift." (2 Cor. (:15)*



Perhaps some of you may be familiar with this advice from the Mary Poppins Movie: "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." The cheerful governess sings these words to her two young charges as she encourages them tackle the day's challenges with a positive attitude.

Unlike characters in a fanciful musical, all of us daily face a multitude of tasks and responsibilities.

Most of us do realize that a positive attitude can help us to tackle life's many challenges. Sometimes, however, we are called to deal with things that are disappointing, difficult, even tragic. I don't believe any of us should feel that we have to remain positive even in the darkest of times. It's important for us to admit our own humanity and vulnerabilities. Sometimes it's essential for us to ask others for their strength and guidance to help us through difficult times. In plain and simple terms, sometimes it's alright to not be positive!

But most of the time, fortunately, our lives are fairly routine. Our days seem to unfold as a rather comfortable series of every day events. And sometimes we forget to recognize all of the blessings that God has given to us.

If we become focused on all of our disappointments, on all the things we don't have, we miss out on life's abundant blessings. The beauty of a sunrise or sunset, the sound of a child's laughter, the taste of good Swedish cooking, etc. can escape our notice when we forget to actively practice being thankful.

So, I'm encouraging each one of you, (myself included) to practice thankfulness, especially for God's abundant loving kindness. And for the record I want to express how thankful I am to be serving as pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church.

Peace & Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*



## Augustana Council

Augustana Lutheran Church council approved minutes

July 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Ted at 6:37p.m.

Devotional was offered by Ken.

Members present: Ted Raven, Heather Hammar, Ken Forsberg, Becky Miller, Julie Sequin and George Klingler. Guests: Connie Burgess and Terry Marckwardt.

A motion to add item B to new Abusiness for zoom meetings and approve the Agenda was made by Heather, with support from Julie, motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting was presented by George, with support from Ken, motion carried.

A motion to accept the Treasurers/Financial secretary report was made by Julie with support from Becky, motion carried.

From the personnel committee Julie reported she continued to speak with staff members on job descriptions and pay.

Building and grounds: George reported that no usage of the parking lot would happen August 8, 15, and 17th.

Old business:

The company giving the quote for the speaker system would be at church on July 21, with hopes to have a proposal by the annual meeting.

Parsonage internet was still being worked on after the lightning strike.

New Business:

Annual meeting reports due by July 30.

The thought of bringing in the ability to hold council meetings via Zoom was brought up. This would give members of council who travel the ability to still attend the meeting.

With no further discussion the meeting was closed followed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hammar

# WELCA Meeting

Approved Minutes

June 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by President Jeanette Otberg.

**Those present:** Barb Hazlett, Joan Chave`, Jan Marckwardt, Sue Klingler, Sandy Goddard, Mary Annette Gorden, and Sue Carmody.

Jeanette Otberg read a devotional titled "A Pastor's Heart".

**Correspondence:** Very nice thank you note from Patty Surguy for the quilt that the quilting ladies made for her.

**The Minutes** from the May 16, 2023 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were presented with a motion to accept by Sue Klingler and second by Joan Chave`. The Minutes were approved.

**The Treasurer's Report** for May 2023 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was presented. The balance in the account as of May 31, 2023 is \$723.80. A motion to accept by Sandy Goddard with support from Sue Carmody was approved.

Joan Chave` read the **WELCA purpose statement**.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A sign-up sheet for our Christmas in July event to be held at Cast Iron Kitchen in Cadillac on Wednesday, July 19 beginning at noon is now available. Details were discussed with emphasis to reach out to others. All women are invited and a \$5 gift to pass is suggested.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Due to the success of holding our May meeting at Green Acres, it was decided to try to schedule our September meeting there. Jeanette will call Green Acres to confirm.

Mary Annette informed the ladies that she has received money from the Scrip account for our Headstart project. She mentioned that Joan Swanson will again submit a request to Thrivent for funds for this project. Mary Annette has asked that the WELCA ladies assist with the shopping and she will let everyone know exactly what to purchase.

Barb Hazlett thanked WELCA for the donation to the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF) to help them to obtain new updated pamphlets. Barb informed WELCA that she is unable to attend the Triennial and a new delegate has been appointed. The September retreat on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> will be held at Eagle Village. The cost is \$65 for the weekend or \$50 for Saturday. Barb asked the ladies if two quilts from Augustana could be donated for this event. That request was approved. Other information presented by Barb includes the showing of the movie "Sound of Freedom" on July 7 at the Rivertown Celebration Cinema in Grandville at 6:30; and on August 30 at Trinity Lutheran in Big Rapids a program "In Plain Sight" which is to help people recognize vaping by young people.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at Augustana at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:08 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jan Marckwardt



## WELCA News



The WELCA women voted to participate in obtaining school supplies for Pine River Schools through the LeRoy library. Several WELCA members purchased supplies on their own and then agreed to use some WELCA funds to purchase more items.

Our September meeting will take place at Green Acres and we encourage all Augustana women to join us at Green Acres on **Tuesday, September 19 at 10:30**. Car pooling will be available.

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### The value of solid relationships

“Most of life’s great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people,” writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. “Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others.”

Maxwell then poses this challenge: “Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life’s greatest joys, you realize that life’s best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships.”

### Being NICER as Christians at work

“As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday,” writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. “Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made.”

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

**No Compromise** (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

**Integrity** (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

**Compassionate in Relationships** (Follow Jesus’ example.)

**Excellence** (“Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.”)

**Responsible to Others** (Be a good Samaritan.)

# Life stewardship lessons from the Danes

*And Jesus said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'* -**Luke 12:15**

The people of Denmark, about six million living in a nation smaller than West Virginia, routinely count among the world's most contented. This year's World Happiness Report ranks the Danes No. 2, behind Finland. The United States ranks 19.

What do the Danes know that we don't?

Several key principles for living help explain Danish happiness, Meik Wiking, chief executive officer of the Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, told the *New York Times*:

**Decoupling wellbeing from wealth.** Jesus did teach us that our lives do not consist in the abundance of possessions, though our consumer culture relentlessly tells us otherwise. How much happier would Americans be if our culture taught us to be content regardless of our wealth?

**Hygge.** This is a Danish term that Wiking describes as "the art of enjoying the simple pleasures in life." Getting together with friends, enjoying the outdoors, experiencing joy with family, finding peace in your own home – things that are readily at hand, without fuss or expense.

**High levels of trust.** Scandinavians tend to trust one another and their institutions. "We consider the collective 'we' versus 'me,'" Amy Clotworthy, a professor at the University of Copenhagen, told the *Times*.

As Christians looking for guidance on how we can be good stewards of our lives, these principles provide inspiration and guidance. How might you incorporate them into your life?

**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; Sophia Hinkley; Marian Byers; Greg Emanoil; Anissa; Barb Hazlett; Louise Barnes; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

**PRAYER**  
list



## Pine River School Supplies

A big thank you to Augustana members who brought so many needed school supplies to church for the Pine River Elementary School. The supplies were taken to the LeRoy library and the library delivered them to the school. Augustana is so blessed to have so many generous members.



## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### North/West Lower MI Synod

#### New Location for Our Fall Retreat

Friday September 29 2023 Check in: Friday 29, 7:00 pm.  
Sat. 8:30 A.M Depart on Saturday 30, 4:00 pm.

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**350 Pearl St. Cadillac, Mi**

*There are no peanuts or tree nuts allowed in Zion Church*

**"Theme; Love Heals"**

Come and enjoy the beauty of the Lord in a beautiful setting, Cadillac, MI. Gather together with other Women of the ELCA, for worship, Bible studies, creative breakout, music, and making new friends.

Call now to reserve your room at the Comfort Inn, 231-779-2900, use code guest DT53C2 for the discount of \$110 for a 2 queen size bed room.

Bring some friends from your congregation!

As we have done in the past, we will be having a raffle and silent auction of items that participants bring in from your Congregation to benefit Katie's fund

To reserve your place at the retreat, cost \$50, contact Roxy Montague text 231-872-0032, or e-mail [roxy.montague@live.com](mailto:roxy.montague@live.com) at 231-872-0032

#### New Location for Our Fall Retreat

September 9,  
Saturday, at 2pm  
Prose & Poetry  
- Author Readings  
and Conversations

### DEWINGS CENTER

202 S. Albert St, in LeRoy

Three authors, three books, three conversations: Brandon Bowman, Amy Nemecek and Glen Van Antwerp. Each will read a selection from their book, followed by discussion and conversation.

Brandon Bowman, "Lifeless", is a teacher at Pine River Elementary; he has a strong passion for teaching students the love and joy of reading and writing.

Amy Nemecek, "The Language of the Birds: Poems", is an editor and formerly from Tustin; this work ties together her love of words, devotion to scripture, and gratitude for life's joys and griefs.

Glen Van Antwerp, "Grandpa Glen's Story - The Saga of a Baby Boomer", lives on a farm in Tustin; this book recounts adventures growing up there and also touches on his stage 4 cancer journey.

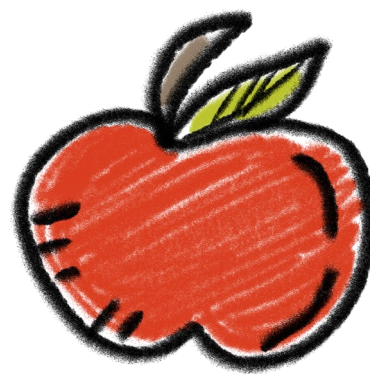
# September 2023 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
<b>September 3</b>	Heather Hammar	Ken & Sandy Goddard	Sandy Goddard	Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Harvey Miller	Heather Hammar & Ruth Hammar	Ruth Hammar
<b>September 10</b>	George Klingler	Jim Carmody	Becky Miller	George & Sue Klingler	Ken Goddard	George Klingler Becky Miller	Sandy Goddard
<b>September 17</b>	Julie Seguin	Joan Chavè	Sue & George Klingler	Ken Forsberg Connie Burgess	Connie Burgess	Connie Burgess	Connie Burgess
<b>September 24</b>	Becky Miller		Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Mary Raven	Arv Otberg	Jeanette Otberg



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Mon., Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – Happy Labor Day
- Sun. Sept 10<sup>th</sup>—Grandparents Day
- Mon. Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Patriot Day
- Mon. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM-Noon – Food Pantry
- Mon. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM – Council Meeting
- Tues. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM – WELCA meeting at Green Acres
- Sat. Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> - First Day of Autumn
- Tues. Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for October MESSENGER



### Happy Birthday!

Ava Hammar – Sept. 7  
Tim Seguin – Sept. 26



### Happy Anniversary

Jim and Sue Carmody – Sept. 21

### September

The golden-rod is yellow;  
The corn is turning brown;  
The trees in apple orchards  
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes  
Are curling in the sun;  
In dusty pods the milkweed  
Its hidden silk has spun.  
—Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1985)

“The best index to a person’s  
character is how he treats  
people who can’t do him any  
good, and how he treats people  
who can’t fight back.”  
—Abigail Van Buren

### Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don’t feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he’s doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: “When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the ‘I don’t care’ blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: ‘And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’” (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. “God always has his person,” he writes, also citing the book of Esther. “When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work.”

Lucado continues: “[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you.”



# September 2023

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 			1	2 Recycling 9-11am 
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Grandparents Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	19 WELCA Meeting 10:30am	20	21	22	23 First day of Autumn
24	25	26	27 October Newsletter Due	28	29	30