



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 Pastor's Phone: 740-296-9176



*"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



“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (Mark 16:8)

During this season of Lent, we've all been experiencing what I like to call Michigan Spring. Unlike other Springs I've experienced, Michigan Spring is somewhat unique. It begins with slowly raising temperatures and a decrease in the amount of snow we're receiving. The temperatures rise again and more snow arrives. Once again, we begin to see signs that Spring is on the way. Snow begins to melt and robins start to appear. But just as we might think winter is over, more snow arrives. We start to wonder if winter will ever end. Finally, the snow actually melts and we put away our winter coats. However, once again those white flakes make their appearance. Even though we know winter cannot last forever, we begin to wonder if Spring will ever finally begin.

To lose hope, to feel despair in times of uncertainty is an integral part of our human experiences. We want to know what's going to happen next and we long to have some type of control of our circumstances. Uncertainty can bring with it a sense of powerlessness. And this season of Lent 2025 certainly carries with it a lot of uncertainty. Unfortunately, many Americans worry about possible unemployment. Some are experiencing hardships created by tragic tornadoes. Many minorities continue to worry about their personal safety. Families are being torn apart by differing political views. The list of concerns seems almost endless.

However, I take comfort in remembering the plight of the disciples after the crucifixion of Jesus. Too often in the church we tend to skip over those dark days when they were experiencing fear and anguish. We are fortunate to know the joy of the empty tomb; we know Jesus will soon return to them. But they couldn't foresee what the future would bring and so they worried. Just like despair, worry is also integral to all of us humans. And I personally don't believe there's anything wrong with it. However, it can cause us to forget the promise of Easter. It can cloud our minds and keep us remembering the promise of Jesus to be with us always. This promise isn't predicated on our doing anything, nothing at all, just a reminder that we are never alone; that we have a savior who is with us in times of sorrow, joy, and uncertainty. As Lent comes to its end, I find comfort in remembering those first disciples, their fear and their ultimate joy. I pray that this promise of Jesus will bring a degree of peace and comfort to all of you.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

February 23, 2025



The meeting was called to order by Becky at 10:30 a.m.

Devotional read by Connie – Daily Bread – Made to Do Good

Members: Mike Barnes, Connie Burgess (via phone), Jim Carmody, Ken Forsberg (via phone), Heather Hammar, Becky Miller, and Julie Seguin.

Agenda: Motion by Mike to approve the agenda as presented, with support from Heather. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by Heather to approve the January 19, 2025 minutes, with support from Jim. Carried.

Financial Reports: Motion by Mike to approve the treasurer/financial secretary reports, supported by Julie. Carried.

No communications.

Building/Grounds Report – An intercom has been installed at each entrance door and is working well.

Old Business:

Renucci House noisy offering on 2/23/25.

Two meetings are scheduled to get insurance quotes. 2/27/25 at 11 am with Emily Cook with Church Mutual Insurance Company, and 3/6/25 at 10 am with Chad Schepers with Lightwell Insurance. Bank Accounts at Lake Osceola State Bank were identified and discussed. We will continue to update the signature cards.

No extra services are planned at Augustana for Lent. Bible Study after services on Palm Sunday.

Motion by Becky, supported by Julie to purchase a new computer for Media Shout as that computer is unable to be updated to Windows 11. Mike will recycle the old computer.

New Business:

Julie reported that Uplift Pine River Area Kids is doing okay at this point financially, and suggested that the annual donation request be presented at Augustana's annual meeting in August.

Discussed future luncheons to consider a simplified menu or catering the event.

We will continue to use the sermons found online in the event that Pastor Sharon cannot be here.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be held after church on March 16, with Jim reading the devotional.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin



Canned Chicken Drive

Now through **April 20th**, we're hosting a drive for Uplift featuring 12.5oz cans of chunk chicken breast. Drop off here at church or with any Uplift volunteer. Can't shop? Monetary donations are always welcome and Sue Carmody or Jan Marckwardt will happily shop for you. Thank you for your continued support of our kids.



Please join us!

Manistee Community Good Friday Service at 12 noon on the **April 18th** at First Congregational Church 412 4th St., Manistee. The service will include hymns, scripture

readings, brief messages from several local clergy including our very own, Pastor Sharon.



April 13th Bible study to begin with Pastor Sharon after Palm Sunday coffee hour.

Creation care

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts, asked troop members to "leave this world a little better than you found it." For Christians, that aim is rooted in Scripture.

Using a Bible-like parable, biology professor Michael Duncan writes: "Imagine you owned a property and rented it out to tenants for a period of time. Upon move-in, the tenants found the place clean and in perfect working order. As the owner of the property, it is your desire to see that the tenants regard the condition of the property and live in such a way that does not destroy the house. This is the mindset that we should adopt as tenants living on the earth."

Almost five centuries ago, John Calvin encouraged creation care too. "The earth was given to man, with this condition, that he should occupy himself in its cultivation," he wrote. "Let him who possesses a field, so partake of its yearly fruits, that he may not suffer the ground to be injured by his negligence, but let him endeavor to hand it down to posterity as he received it, or even better cultivated. Moreover, that this economy, and this diligence, with respect to those good things which God has given us to enjoy, may flourish among us; let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses."

Fun and laughter

"Here cometh April again," said poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834). "And as far as I can see, the world hath more fools than ever."

That second observation may or may not be true, but April does indeed begin on a lighter note. April Fools' Day, which is filled with practical jokes, can also be a reminder to thank God for laughter, joy, funny stories, children's antics and other things that make us smile.

Then one week after Easter, on what's known as Holy Humor Sunday, some churches celebrate that God played the supreme joke on death. Jesus' resurrection is cause for joy, smiles and, yes, laughter. Even the Almighty joins in: "He who sits in the heavens laughs" (Psalm 2:4).

WELCA News



Sadly Jeanette Otberg has decided to step down as our president. Jeanette has served as president for over ten years and we will miss her leadership, her wisdom and her wit. We look forward to Jeanette joining our meetings and continuing to serve WELCA in all of our endeavors.

Joan Chave` is the new president of WELCA and will offer her leadership in the coming months with all our projects.

On Mother's Day, **May 11** WELCA ladies will assist with the Sunday service. There are still a few spots available to assist. Please speak with Jan Marckwardt if you would like to be a part of this service.

Father's Day may seem like it is far off, but WELCA is already planning to feed our guys after the **June 15** service. The menu will consist of breakfast casseroles and we still could use a few more as well as fruits and juice. Please let a WELCA member know if you can help us feed the men. Kitchen help will also be appreciated.

Uplift News

The Board of Uplift Pine River Area Kids is pleased to announce the move of Uplift to Augustana. Uplift will share space with the food pantry in the lower level. The food pantry and Uplift are looking forward to this companion arrangement both serving the community by offering food to those who need it.

Uplift plans to resume packing and delivering bags to students in all three schools as well as the preschool on Tuesday, April 15. The Uplift Board is grateful to Augustana for allowing this move to happen and thanks the food pantry for sharing their space.



Synod Assembly 2025

The 2025 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly will be held in-person on May 18-20, 2025 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant, MI under the theme "Living a Life Worthy of Our Calling." another by the Spirit.

[Learn more about the 2025 Synod Assembly theme.](#)

In the coming months, updates and resources will continue to be posted on this website. Additional questions should be emailed to assembly@mittensynod.org.

Let a council member know if you would like to go.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- April 23: Synod Assembly Registration Deadline
- April 28: Assembly Book Published

April 2025 Assisting Ministers

[illegible]

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Food Pantry, April 7, 2025 9-12pm
- Holy Week, April 13-20, 2025
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025
- Bible Study Sunday, April 13, 2025 10:30am
- Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Good Friday, April 18, 2025
- Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025
- Council Meeting, April 21, 2025 6:30pm
- Earth Day, April 22, 2025
- Food Pantry, April 21, 2025 9-12pm
- WELCA Meeting, April 22, 2025 10:30am
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 23, 2025
- Deadline for May Messenger, April 28, 2025



PRAYER list...

PRAYER CONCERNS: Brandon Carroll; Stephanie G., Charles Fines; Ritter Family; Anna; Mark Krell; Jasmine; Pat Dougherty; Heather M.; Candy Karr; Linda; Janice Peterson; Anissa; Carlton Plyler; Jack Forsberg; Katy Draper; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

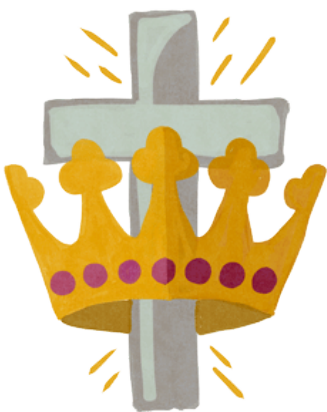
Happy Birthday!

Arvid Otberg – April 6
Carolyn Sadler – April 19



Happy Anniversary

Ted and Mary Raven – April 13



Hope for Holy Week

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

—Peter Sulzle

Your Council Members

President - Becky Miller (Cell) 231-920-7883 email beckymiller81@live.com

Vice President – Heather Hammar (H) 231-629-2359 email: heather.hammar@gmail.com

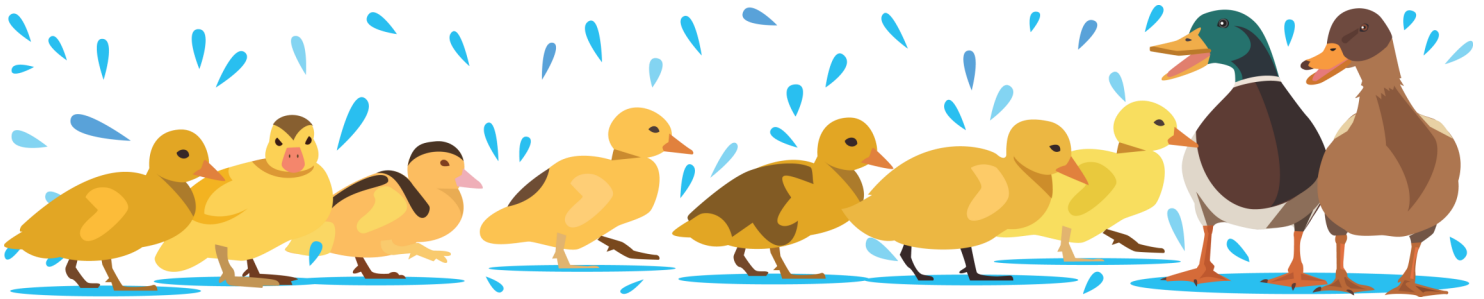
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Ken Forsberg (Cell) 517-525-6336 email kenforsberg@outlook.com

Connie Burgess (Cell) 517-256-4923 email dancingdep12@yahoo.com



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 
6	7 Food Pantry 9-12pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Easter Day 	21 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	22 WELCA Meeting 10:30am 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Newsletter Due	30			