



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



“...whenever you pray go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. (Matthew 6:6)

When his disciples ask Jesus to teach them how they should pray he tells them to avoid praying like hypocrites. They should refrain from reciting long, loud prayers in public places. Instead, Jesus tells them they need to pray in “secret”. What Jesus suggests isn't that the disciples need to hide away to pray, but that, in addition to the public prayers of worship, it's also important for them to find quite peaceful places to pray. They should seek to follow Jesus' example of going out to pray by himself.

As Christians, we often profess our faith in the power of prayer. When we come together to worship, we bow our heads as we listen to the Sunday morning prayers and join together in reciting the words of the Lord's Prayer. Prayer is most certainly a cornerstone of our corporate worship. I believe that most, if not all of us also pray at various times during our daily lives. Some of us pray before eating a meal. Many pray before going on a journey or facing new challenges. We often pray for others who are experiencing difficult times. Sometimes we offer prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings that God has given us. But sometimes I wonder how much of our prayers consist of us telling God what we think God needs to do for us and others and how much is devoted to our listening to what God wants for us to do.

In *Breathing Under Water*, Richard Rohr makes the following observation about the way in which we frequently pray: “In what is commonly called prayer, you and your hurts, needs, and perspectives are still the central reference point, but now you have decided to invite a Major Power in to help you with your already determined solution.” All too often, I find myself telling God what I think should happen and forgetting that God's wisdom is ever so much greater than my own. Frequently, I add the words “your will not mine” without quite meaning them. Learning to trust in God takes courage, patience and time devoted to listening to God rather than telling God what to do.

As we ask God to listen to our prayers, may we also open our hearts and listen to God.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

August 19, 2024



The meeting was called to order by Becky Miller at 6:30.

Devotional read by Jim Carmody sharing Pastor Sharon's Welcoming the Marginalized post from Facebook. Connie Burgess followed with a reading I Come To The Garden Alone.

Members: Jim Carmody, Ken Forsberg, Becky Miller, Michael Barnes, Connie Burgess, Julie Seguin.

Guest: Terry Marckwardt, Treasurer.

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

Election of Officers: Motion by Connie, with support from Mike to elect the following panel of officers and committee chairs. Carried.

President – Becky Miller, Vice President – Heather Hammar, Secretary – Julie Seguin, Treasurer – Terry Marckwardt, Financial Secretary – Doreen Barnes, Building & Grounds – Mike Barnes, Personnel Committee – Jim Carmody & Connie Burgess.

Minutes: Motion by Connie to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2024 meeting, with support from Jim. Carried.

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

Communications: It was discovered that one set of special meeting minutes was not included in the packet for the Annual Meeting. Becky will read this at a future service, and ask that the congregation approve it being added to the Annual Meeting.

Building/Grounds Report – Mike will get with George and go over what needs to be done and monitored.

Old Business:

Annual reviews for Angela, Patty and Kim have been completed. Connie will meet with Angela, George will meet with Patty, and Becky will meet with Kim to discuss the reviews.

New Business:

Carpet cleaning – Julie will get bids from Steamway Carpet Cleaning, and then Sunshine Carpet Cleaning if necessary.

Renucci date – Ravens would like to go in October/November. Ken and Connie too. A date will be set.

Becky has a Scrip order list available and will place an order ASAP.

Becky will set a date for flu shots as soon as they are available.

A donation from Augustana to Uplift PR Kids was discussed. The cost of food has increased. The donation was tabled for now. Other ways of fund raising were discussed.

Mike's family gifted a gift card that he'd like to be given to the Andrew Coykendall Family after Andrew's sudden passing. Julie will take care of getting this in the mail to the family ASAP.

The next meeting will be September 16, 2024 at 6:30 – Devotions by Ken.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

WELCA Meeting Approved Minutes

August 20, 2024



The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Barb Hazlett. The meeting was held at Green Acres in Cadillac.

Those present: Joan Chavé, Sue Klingler, Mary Raven, Mary Annette Gorden, Jan Marckwardt, Sandy Goddard, Shelby Plyler, and Myrna Griep.

A devotional was read by Joan Chavé titled "If Only".

The Minutes from June 18, 2024 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved with a motion by Sue Klingler and second by Sandy Goddard.

The Treasurer's Report from July 2024 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was approved with a motion from Mary Raven and second by Sandy Goddard. The balance in the account as of July 31, 2024 was \$531.12.

OLD BUSINESS:

"Christmas in July" was enjoyed by all who attended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Annette Gorden has spoken with the HeadStart teacher to clarify the programs currently running for 3-4-5 year olds at the Tustin Elementary school. There are two programs now. One is the HeadStart program (Federal) and the other is Great Start Readiness Program (State of Michigan). The HeadStart teacher informed Mary Annette that 41 children are currently enrolled in HeadStart but enrollment could go higher once school begins. WELCA has decided to support only the HeadStart program as funds are not available for two programs. Tote bags with educational supplies are usually purchased by WELCA and given to the children. An alternative has been selected to give the teacher Visa gift cards to purchase items for the three classrooms of HeadStart children. The WELCA ladies unanimously agreed to this suggestion. We may alternately supply tote bags with supplies next year. It was further decided to purchase the gift cards through Augustana's Scrip program but the cards will not be given until around the Christmas season.

Barb Hazlett reminded the group about the Fall Gathering. This will take place at Emanuel Lutheran in Big Rapids on **Saturday September 28**. This is a one day gathering and registration forms will be made available. The chosen charity for this event is Angels of Action. This meeting will also elect Board Members.

Barb shared with us that there are 130 churches in the Mitten Synod and only 22 active WELCA groups.

Barb also mentioned that human trafficking is still around and she is very active with groups trying to spread the word about this tragic occurrence in communities which includes our area.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting will be September 17, 2024. There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:20 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Marckwardt

UPLIFT PINE RIVER AREA KIDS

Uplift continues to struggle in obtaining some foods. The oatmeal situation has resolved itself and Covenant is collecting cereal. Therefore Augustana's food drive will focus on small packages of snacks. An example would be granola bars, small packages of cookies, chips, or fruit snacks. Any small sized snack would be welcome. Jim and Sue Carmody are heading up the drive and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. As usual they will shop for you if you would like them to. The drive will start sometime in early

Gifts for Kids

Again this year we aren't asking for games for the Gifts for Kids event. Gifts for Kids is an annual event in Osceola County that gives qualifying parents an opportunity to choose gifts for their children, hats and mittens for the kids, and receive household items right before Christmas. Augustana friends have always been very generous with their donation of games and a grant received a few years ago will help to purchase the games needed for this year. Our game inventory is still very good also.

What's your oasis?

As the gospels make clear, even the Son of God needed an occasional break. For Jesus, a solitary place reached by boat served as an oasis.

Although an oasis might make us think of a beach-like vacation spot in the middle of a desert, it's simply "something that provides refuge, relief or pleasant contrast" (Merriam-Webster).

So, what's your oasis? For someone who recently lost a spouse, it could be a break from the new-found silence. For a young parent, it could be a block of solitude and silence to complete a thought.

I haven't found any definition of oasis that includes a timeframe. Such an experience could last 30 seconds or a full week. Work within your circumstances so you can get away for a time with Jesus.

As you identify and pursue an oasis, consider your answers to these questions:

- What circumstances in life cause you to desire an oasis, or break?
- What will it look like to create a personal oasis or sanctuary at home?
- When you spend time with Jesus, what do you want to do?

—Janna Firestone



PRAYER CONCERNS: DeVere & Marian Byers; Linda; Pat Gustad; Fay Bartrand; The Goddards, Janice Peterson; Anissa; Carlton Plyler; Jack Forsberg; Katy Draper; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

October 2024 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
October 8				Jan Marckwardt			
October 13			Ruth Hammar			Ruth Hammar	
October 20	Becky Miller		Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Jim Carmody		Sue Klingler
October 27							

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- *Pastor Appreciation Month*
- *World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2024*
- *Food Pantry, October 7, 2024 9-12pm*
- *Adopt-A-Road Clean-up, October 9, 2024 5pm*
- *Renucci House, October 10, 2024*
- *Columbus Day, October 14, 2024*
- *Indigenous Peoples Day, October 14, 2024*
- *WELCA, October 15, 2024 10:30am*
- *Food Pantry, October 21, 2024 9-12pm*
- *Council Meeting, October 21, 2024 6:30pm*
- *Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024*
- *Scrip Orders Due Sunday, October 27, 2024*
- *Flu Shots after service Sunday, October 27, 2024*
- *Deadline for November Messenger, October 29, 2024*
- *Halloween, October 31, 2024*



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

Doreen Barnes – October 7
Angela Christie – October 11
Joan Chavé - 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

The heart of a volunteer

A daughter had just helped her 90-year-old mother through the complex process of moving from and selling the family home. Now in a senior living center, the once-active woman was adjusting to her new surroundings and lifestyle.

As the daughter finalized arrangements, she tactfully brought up matters of nutrition. Hoping her mom would accept some help, she asked, "What about Meals on Wheels?"

Mom replied, "No, dear. I don't think I can volunteer for them anymore."



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Quilting Club every Tuesday	2	3	4	5 
6	7 Food Pantry 9-12pm	8	9 Road Clean-up 5pm	10	11	12
13	14	15 WELCA 10:30am	16 Road Clean-up 5pm	17	18	19
20	21 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Flu Shots Raise Right Due	28	29 Newsletter Due	30	31 		