

**AUGUSTANA  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**Special points  
of interest:**

- Easter Sunday
- Food Pantry  
Sunday
- Can you help?  
Assisting  
Minister Sign-up
- Upcoming  
Dates to  
Remember
- Earth Day

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# The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2026

## Pastor's Page



*"... the Lord accepts my prayer." (Psalm 6:9)*

We've all been taught how to pray. For many of us this training began in our childhood. Children usually receive some instructions from parents, Sunday School teachers, and other church leaders. Although my parents were not regular church goers, they did give me and my sister some basic instructions along

with 2 set prayers. Before meals we recited "God is great; God is good; and we thank him for this food. We didn't use it often, but always when our grandparents were there. The other one we used at bedtime: "Now I lay me down to sleep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." It wasn't until I was an adult that I realized how deeply disturbing these words can be. At some point, "The Lord's Prayer" became forever engraved on my heart.

Along with words for prayers most of us also learned sets of rules about where, when, and how to pray. Some of the rules I learned were:

*always close your eyes when praying, always end prayers with Jesus' name AMEN, and it's important to end each day on your knees, praying at your bedside.* While some of these "rules" can be helpful, I believe that they can inhibit our ability to comfortably and freely begin and end our conversations with God. Because having conversations with God is really what prayer is all about. Our prayers are one of the ways that we continue to build our relationship with God. They really are a heaven-sent way of sharing our hopes, dreams, concerns, and heart aches with a loving and ever-present parent.

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## Following Christ's Example of Humble Service

"On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples' feet and drying them with a towel. Peter

protested, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16). Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have

washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15, NKJV). On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ's command and his example of humility, service and love.



## AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Approved Minutes  
February 8, 2026



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

Devotional read by Brian – You are the Salt of the Earth.

Members: Mike Barnes, Jim Carmody, Brian Hammar, Heather Hammar, Kurt Hammar, Becky Miller, and Julie Seguin. Guests: Terry Marckwardt, Treasurer.

Agenda: Motion by Julie, to approve the agenda, with support from Jim. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by Mike to approve the January 2026 minutes, with support from Kurt. Carried.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Reports: Heather made a motion to approve the Treasurer and Secretary reports, with Brian supporting the motion. Approved.

Building/Grounds Report: Mike reported that the furnace is fixed and working well. He'll fix the door sweep on the east entry door when the weather changes.

Old Business:

- Bible Study scheduled for February 22 after coffee
- Assisting minister classes? Some members are asking to volunteer. To be scheduled.
- Discussion on electrical outlets, cost of electricity, microphone for pastor.

New Business:

- Palm Sunday, March 29. Palms are ordered and will be picked up from Patterson's Flowers in Reed City at a lower cost plus we'll be saving shipping costs.

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

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 15 at 10:15 after church, with Mike reading the devotional.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Seguin

### **Church Mission Statement**

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

## Northwest Osceola Food Pantry

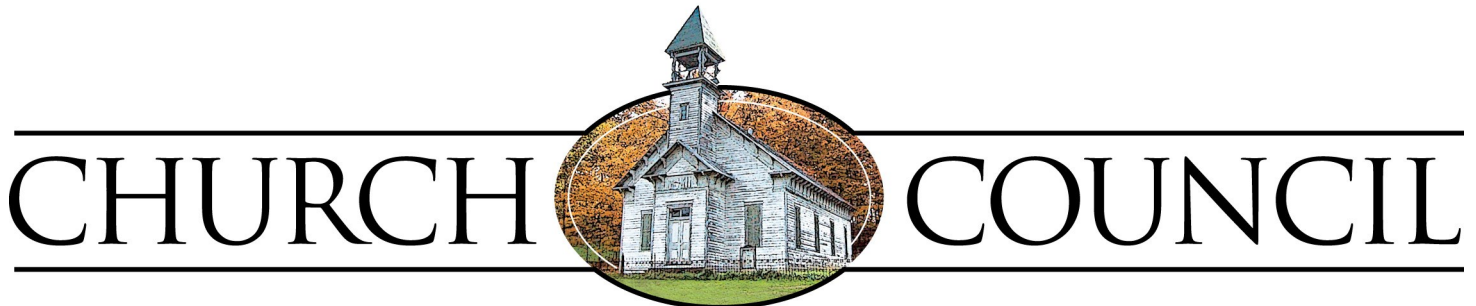
Each month for Augustana’s Fourth Sunday Food Pantry collection a different item will be collected. For the month of March the item was spaghetti sauce and once again the response was excellent. For the month of April we will be collecting **shampoo**. Any size or brand will be appreciated. As usual if you are unable to shop, shopping can be done for you. Please talk with Jan if you need shopping help.

### Addressed to God

A letter written in a childish scrawl arrived at the post office addressed simply to “God.” Unsure what to do, a postal employee opened it and read: “Dear God, my name is Jimmy. I am 6 years old. My father is dead, and my mother is having a hard time raising me and my sister. Would you please send us \$500?”

Moved by the boy’s plea, the employee shared the letter with coworkers, and together they collected \$300 to send to the family.

A couple of weeks later, another letter arrived. Jimmy thanked God for the money and added one final request: “Next time would you please deliver the money directly to our home? If you send it through the post office, they deduct \$200.”



Title	Name	Phone	Email
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	Kurt Hammar	231-578-1153	heatherhamar1@gmail.com

## April 2026 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/ Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
April 8	Mike Barnes	Pastor Phil		Mike & Doreen Barnes	Pastor Phil	Julie Seguin	X
April 12	Becky Miller			Doug & Becky Miller	Linda Swanson		
April 19							
April 26 Food Pantry Sunday							



Prayer  
LIST

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Amy Brown; Anna; Carol G.; Bob T.; Pat O; Amanda; Jeanette Otberg; Kathy Tuttle; Lexi; Jaydon; Carlton; Ron & Candy Karr; Anissa; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

**Upcoming Dates to Remember**

- Holy Week Continues, March 29-April 5, 2026
- Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026
- Good Friday, April 3, 2026
- Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026
- Food Pantry, April 6, 2026 9-11am
- Council Meeting, April 19, 2026 10:15am
- Food Pantry, April 20, 2026 9-11am
- WELCA Meeting, April 21, 2026 10:30am
- Earth Day, April 22, 2026
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 22, 2026
- Food Pantry Sunday, April 26, 2026 –donations due
- Deadline for May Messenger, April 27, 2026



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My primary concern about all the rules we've been taught about prayer imply that prayer not only has to be done correctly, but also that there are ways to do it incorrectly. Personally, I believe if we are sincere, there really aren't any wrong ways to pray. God doesn't care about correct words or whether or not our eyes are closed! God wants to hear from us whether we're in church, driving to do errands, confronting challenges, or just having a really bad day. However, there are times in our lives when the words of a written prayer can bring us peace and serenity. This one always brings me comfort. It's by Peter Marshall, former chaplain to the US Senate.

*Father, I ask you to take from me now all that does harass and annoy me, all that has laid upon my heart burdens of anxiety and care. I thank you for the stillness of this time of prayer. This oasis in my busy day when I can relax before you, lay my burdens down and hand over to you all my anxieties. At this moment, I open my heart to receive your blessing, knowing that in your presence the furrows are being smoothed from my brow, the lines from my face, the load from my heart, the doubts from my mind, the fears from my soul, that I am at peace. And now, I thank you, not only for quietness without, but for your quietness at the heart of the universe, and for the quietness withing. In your peace, I pray. Amen*

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

**Happy Birthday!**

Carolyn Sadler – April 19

**Happy Anniversary**

Ted & Mary Raven– April 13

**Office Hours**  
 Monday – Thursday  
 9am - 1pm  
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*Please kindly deliver to:*



# April 2026

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

			1		2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4 
5 Easter Sunday 	6 Food Pantry 9-11am	7 	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19 Council Meeting 10:15am	20 Food Pantry 9-11am	21 WELCA 10:30am	22 Earth Day 	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			