

JANUARY

2023 MESSENGER

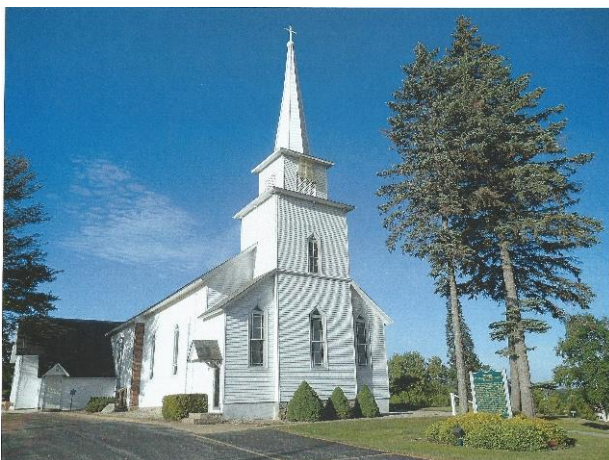
Augustana Lutheran Church

Pastor Sharon Van Dam

Secretary - Sandra Bottorff

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



**Blessings on you, Augustana faithful,
and best wishes for a healthy,
prosperous and happy 2023!**

As the old year comes to a close, we're reminded of the abundant blessings that our gracious, generous Lord has bestowed upon us.

One of the most precious of those gifts is our church family! Each and every one of you is a blessing to the others in Augustana's congregation.

It's true! You can hold your head high, knowing that you are among those called the Children of God, and that he has put you in this place, in this time, to be a blessing to others.



symbols include light, candles and a star.

On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, "It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy' is joyous. If a man were to say, 'It is not joyous to me,' he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself."

Happy Birthday!

Ted Raven – Jan. 2
Claudia Harder – Jan. 5
Jordan Knapp – Jan. 14
Pastor Sharon Van Dam – Jan. 19
Berner Gorden – Jan. 22
Lia Jones – Jan. 25
Carla Swanson – Jan. 26

Happy Anniversary

Mark and Heather Allen – Jan. 19

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Sun., Jan. 1 – New Year's Day
- Mon., Jan. 2 – New Year's Day observed
- Mon., Jan. 16th at 6:30 PM – Council Meeting
- Tues., Jan. 17th at 10:30 AM – WELCA Meeting
- Thurs., Jan. 26th - Deadline for February MESSENGER

PRAYER CONCERNS*: Peggy Burns; Sandie Leach; Tom H; Carlton Plyler;
Andrea Foster; Shelby Plyler; Julie Bierema; Pamela McCalla; Janice Peterson;
Cindy Buning; Tom R.; Sue Klingler, Haley, the Stokes family.
Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.



Gifts for Kids 2022

The annual Mecosta/Osceola Gifts for Kids event was held on December 10 and had over 100 families registered. Gifts are donated by various church and community organizations and families came to choose items for Christmas. A bag of household items is also given to each and every family. Augustana provides board games and families are allowed to select one game. It is through the generosity of our congregation that we were able again this year to take games to the event giving each family a good selection ranging in age from three to teens, adults and family games.

Thank you to everyone who donated money or games to this worthy community project. There are always many smiles and good wishes from the families who participate in this event. We are already planning for next December!

January, 2023 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
Jan. 1	Becky Miller	Mary Raven	Becky Miller	Ted and Mary Raven	Mary Raven		Becky Miller And Mary Raven
Jan. 8					Harvey Miller		
Jan. 15	Julie Seguin	Sue Carmody			Jim Carmody		Sue Carmody
Jan. 22							
Jan. 29 Food Pantry Sunday							

The January Assisting Ministers calendar is nearly blank! Can you help? Please sign up for any and all opportunities that you are able to fulfill. What a wonderful way to serve our Lord!

Recycling in LeRoy is taking a break until Saturday of March 4, 2023. You can still take recyclable items to the Reed City center located at 531 E. Lincoln Avenue. Hours are Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00 to noon and Tues., Thurs. noon to 3:00.



December 11th was a landmark birthday for Mary Raven this year, and to help her celebrate, several folks brought some delicious munchies, plus a beautiful (and delicious) birthday cake for everyone to share during coffee hour.

Mary was elated with the outpouring of friendship and affection, and she quipped: "If I'd known it would be so good, I would have done it two years earlier! Thanks so much."

Here – Mary displays her beautiful birthday cake.

Right photo, left to right:
Granddaughter Mallory Raven, son Bob Raven, daughter Mara Spence, Mary and Ted.



Uplift **Pine River Area Kids** – Rising costs and supply shortages have made it difficult for Uplift to obtain canned chicken. Therefore, Augustana will be conducting a canned chicken drive beginning January 1. Please consider purchasing a 12.5 oz. can of chicken for Uplift. Covenant Presbyterian will also be conducting a canned chicken drive and between the two churches we hope to have enough chicken for at least two weekly packings. Foods with protein are essential to pack in the weekly bags. As always, if you can't get out to shop, please talk with Sue Carmody or Jan Marckwardt and we will shop for you.

As stated above, rising costs are putting a strain on Uplift's budget. Please consider a monetary donation to this community program to keep the program running. Using the website, you can donate on line or give your donation to Julie Seguin. Julie is the treasurer for Uplift.



WELCA Meeting

There was no WELCA meeting in December. Approved minutes from the November, 2022, meeting will be published in the February, 2023,

MESSSENGER.



Augustana Council

There was no council meeting in December. Approved minutes from the November, 2022, meeting will be published in the February, 2023, MESSSENGER.