

**AUGUSTANA
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Special points of interest:

- Phil's Anniversary
- Food Pantry Sunday
- Can you help? Assisting Minister Sign-up
- Upcoming Dates to Remember
- Father's Day

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The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 4

June 2026

Pastor's Page



Angels in Disguise

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels unawares."

Hebrews 13:2

I was in Arizona, enjoying the luxurious getaway my daughter Charlotte had planned for the two of us. Anxious to join her at the resorts swimming pool, I managed to fall face-first just in front of the gate completely blocking it. My next memory was of peo-

ple asking me my name and what year it was. I heard a male voice telling everyone not to move me. Moving was the furthest thing from my mind at the time. I also heard voices calling for the paramedics. As I lay there on the ground, with the taste of blood in my mouth, full of anger at myself for falling, I began to realize that I was surrounded by a small group of people who were really angels in disguise. Crouching next to me was a man holding a towel to keep the bright sun out of my eyes. He spoke to me in a voice that was calm, reassuring, and full of compassion; explaining what was happening around me.

Trapped on the other side of the gate where some beautiful women, including my daughter, and even one who was some type of nurse. True to form, I found myself in entertainment mode and mentioned that I had always sort of wanted to be a stand-up comedian. One quick witted person replied that I'd make a terrific "lying down" comic and I remember how good it felt to laugh.

When the paramedics arrived and checked me out, they recommended that I go to the hospital. When I shared my reluctance, my daughter said,

"You're going."
Immediately the female

continued on page 5

Reflecting the Father's Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priori-

ties, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life? For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths

and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.

WELCA Meeting
Approved Minutes
April 21,2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Barb Hazlett.

Those present: Jan Marckwardt, Barb Hazlett, and Sue Klingler.

The Devotion was read by Barb Hazlett.

The Purpose Statement was read by Sue Klingler.

The Minutes from November 18, 2025 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report prepared by Jan Marckwardt for March 31, 2026 was approved. The balance in the account as of March 31 was \$742.66.

Old Business:

Food Pantry Sunday has been a success. Each month a different item has been suggested for the food pantry and the congregation has generously responded. LeRoy Methodist has joined Augustana in this project.

HeadStart reported back to WELCA that they purchased items for their classrooms from the gift certificates that WELCA gave them at Christmas time. HeadStart is very grateful for our support.

New Business:

The menu for the Benkert funeral was discussed. A list is available for those wanting to help provide salads and desserts.

Also discussed was the menu for the Father's Day brunch on June 21 . It was decided to have breakfast casseroles, fruits, biscuits and gravy and juice. A cake will also be provided.

Barb Hazlett informed the ladies that there is a free Human Trafficking event on April 30 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Cadillac from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. A soup dinner will be provided and speakers will be available.

Barb also mentioned that the Spring Gathering in Greenville has been canceled.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting will be on May 19, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. It is hoped that our June 16 meeting will be held at Green Acres. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Marckwardt

AUGUSTANA BELL CHOIR

The bells have been ringing again since February 2024. Our first performance was at the 150th anniversary service. Myrna Griep started getting people to ring sometime in early 1990. There was a time when the bells were silent until interest again resurged.

You do not need to know how to read music to join the other bell ringers and there is always room for new “Ring-a-ding-dingers.” Currently the bell ringers are taking the summer off but will pick up the bells again in late August. Practice is always fun and enjoyable. Performances are rewarding. Think about joining and maybe pick up a bell and give it a try.

(From left to right: Mary Ellen, Brenda, Sue, Jan, Shelly, Becky, Doug, Cheryl, Julie and Melissa , director)



A Safe Haven in the Storm

Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley penned the beloved hymn “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” in 1739. According to tradition, Wesley wrote the words after surviving a violent storm at sea. During the chaos, a frightened bird is said to have flown through a window and sought shelter in the folds of Wesley’s coat, a small but powerful image of refuge in the midst of danger. The opening stanza of the hymn echoes that sense of protection and trust:

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.*

These words call to mind the frightened disciples in Matthew 8:23–27. Tossed by wind and waves, they feared for their lives and cried out to Jesus for rescue. With a word, he calmed the storm and reminded them of his power and presence. We, too, face seasons when life feels overwhelming. In those moments, we can take refuge in our Savior, trusting that he is our safe haven and that, no matter the storm, our destination is secure.

WELCA NEWS

All women of Augustana are invited to join our WELCA meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30.

The June meeting is going to be at Green Acres in Cadillac on **June 16 at 10:30**. Please plan to attend as our friends at Green Acres enjoy seeing us. It is very special that we are able to hold our meetings in their building. Car pooling is available. If you would like a ride, plan to be at Augustana by 10:00 a.m.

The Father's Day brunch menu has been set. If you can help with a breakfast casserole, please let Jan or Sue Klingler know.

The much anticipated and well attended Christmas in July will be once again be held at Big Boy in Cadillac on **July 21 at noon**. This is a fun event and all women are invited to attend. Guests such as neighbors, friends, sisters, mothers, are very welcome. Everyone has a good time especially with our "Right/Left" game.

Please bring a \$5 gift to pass during this game. A signup sheet will be available in June and car pooling will also be available for this event.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 16 at 10:30** at Green Acres. See you then!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
 Though my hair is white as
 snow.
 Though my sight is growing dim,
 Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

Yes, Jesus loves me!
 Yes, Jesus loves me.
 Yes, Jesus loves me!
 The Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so
 slow,
 With my hand in His I'll go
 On through life, let come what
 may,
 He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

Though I am no longer young,
 I have much which He's begun.
 Let me serve Christ with a smile,
 Go with others the extra mile.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and
 long,
 In my heart He puts a song.
 Telling me in words so clear,
 "Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
 And life's victories have been
 won.

He will take me home above,
 Then I'll understand His love

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
 Have I ever told Him so?
 Jesus loves to hear me say,
 That I love Him every day.

(Author unknown)

Northwest Osceola Food Pantry

Our collection of food for the food pantry continues. Each month we collect a food or personal item recommended by the Food Pantry personnel. We collect this food/product by the 4th Sunday of each month. This month's food suggestion is **SALTINE CRACKERS**.

As always if you are unable to shop, the shopping can be done for you. Please let Jan Marckwardt know and she will be happy to purchase items on your behalf.

continued from front page....

angels responded, "We're all your daughters and you're going!" Now I'm home in Michigan, bruised but unbroken, but I sincerely wish I had had the chance to thank each and every one of these strangers.

I wish each and every one of them could know how much their kindness helped me and my daughter during a frightening and difficult time. And naturally I'll be forever grateful for the calm and caring manner in which Charlotte accompanied me in the ambulance and helped me navigate the entire ER experience. Also, a huge thank you to my sister-in-law Esther and her husband Frank who came to the hospital and gave us much needed help in transporting us back to the resort.

Life really is full of good people.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharen



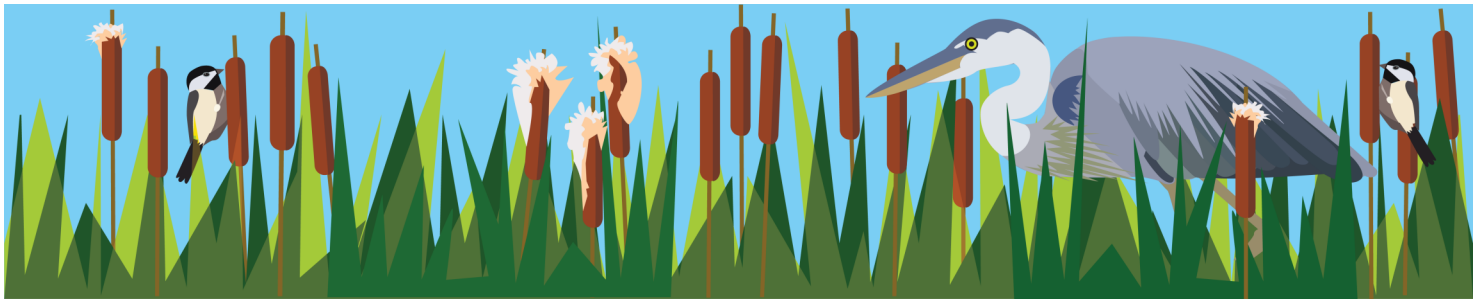
CHURCH COUNCIL



| Title | Name | Phone | Email |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| President | Becky Miller | 231-920-7883 | beckymiller81@live.com |
| Vice-President | Heather Hammar | 231-629-2359 | heather.hammar@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Julie Seguin | 231-878-3119 | jkseguin@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Terry Marckwardt | 231-872-0149 | etmarck@sbcglobal.net |
| Members: | Michael Barnes | 231-884-7128 | birdhunterup@gmail.com |
| | Jim Carmody | 231-288-0731 | sjcarmody85@yahoo.com |
| | Brian Hammar | 231-920-4087 | bhammar@att.net |
| | Kurt Hammar | 231-578-1153 | heatherhamar1@gmail.com |

June 2026 Assisting Ministers

| Date | Projector Operator | Communion Assistant | Communion Preparer | Greeters/ Open/ Close Church | Lector/ Prayer Leader | Tellers | Coffee Hour Host |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|------------------|
| June 7 | | | | | | | |
| June 14 | Julie Seguin | | | | | | |
| June 21 Father's Day | | Sue Carmody | | | Jim Carmody | | Brunch |
| June 28 Food Pantry Sunday | | | | | | | |



Prayer
LIST

PRAYER CONCERNS: Nancy L; The Gorden Family; Mike B; Pastor Zack Nelson; Reketa; CJ; Jerry; Carol N.; Amy Brown; Anna; Carol G; 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

- Food Pantry, June 1, 2026 9-11am
- Flag Day, June 14, 2026
- Council Meeting, June 14, 2026 10:15am
- Food Pantry, June 15, 2026 9-11am
- WELCA Meeting, June 16, 2026 10:30am at Green Acres
- Juneteenth, June 19, 2026
- Father's Day, June 21, 2026
- First Day of Summer, June 21, 2026
- Deadline for July Messenger, June 29 2026



Church Mission Statement

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



Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9am - 1pm

e-mail: azlcp@att.net

www.augustanatustin.com

A Child's Favorite Word

A 6-year-old boy attended a church conference with his parents. After listening for a short while, he began to fidget in his seat. To help him settle down, his mother handed him a notepad and pencil and suggested he make a mark every time the speaker said the word "and."

Before long, the boy grew restless again. "Would you like to listen for a different word?" his mother whispered.

"Yes," he replied. "I'd like to listen for 'Amen.'"

Happy Birthday!

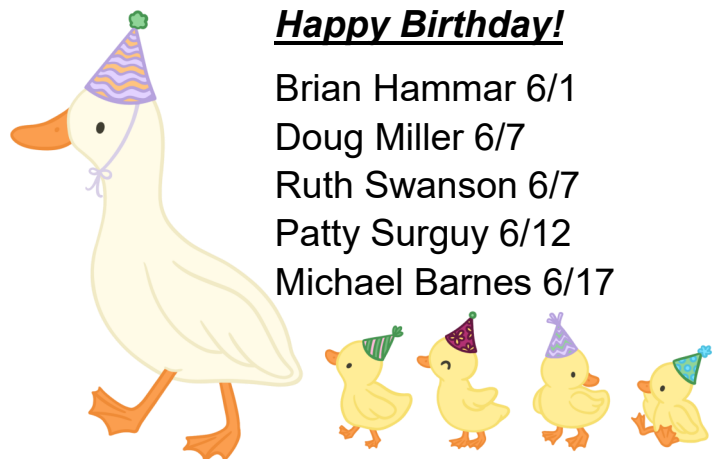
Brian Hammar 6/1

Doug Miller 6/7

Ruth Swanson 6/7

Patty Surguy 6/12

Michael Barnes 6/17





Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
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 Tustin, MI 49688
 Phone: 231-829-3837
 Pastor: 740-296-9176

Please kindly deliver to:



June 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|
| | 1 Food Pantry 9-11am | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Council Meeting 10:15am | 15 Food Pantry 9-11am | 16 WELCA 10:30am | 17 | 18 | 19  | 20 |
| 21 Father's Day | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Newsletter Due | 30 | | | | |