

JANUARY

2026

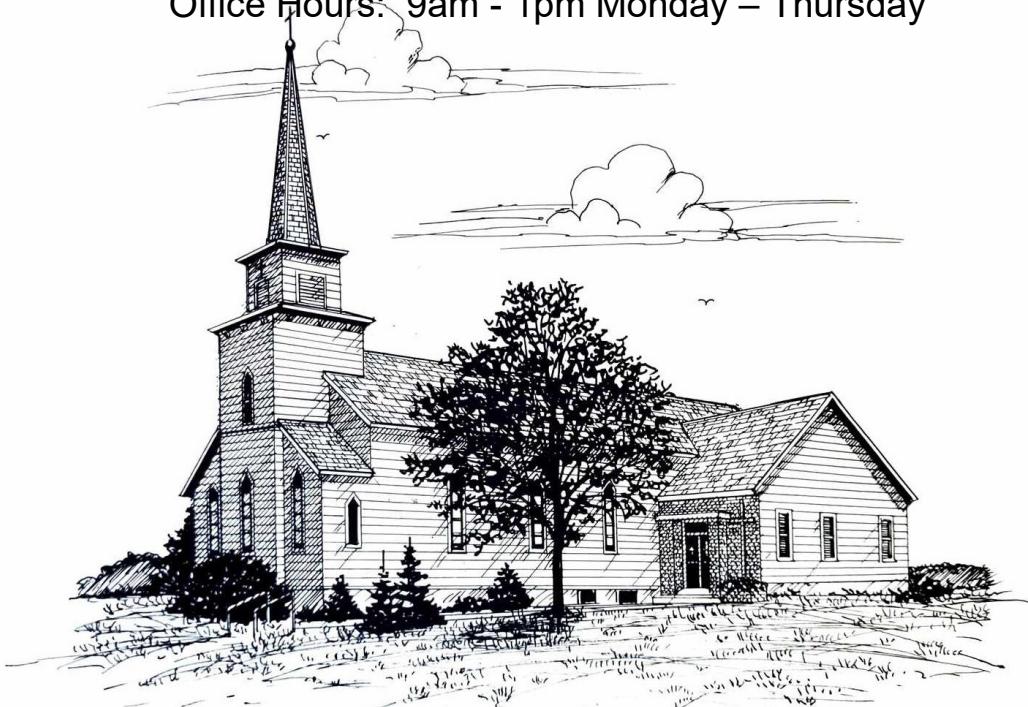
Augustana Lutheran Church Messenger

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

"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

After giving birth. After the unexpected visit of the shepherds. After hearing about angelic messengers. After learning about the future of the newborn infant laying in a manger. After all the excitement and confusion Mary is left alone to ponder all of these things in her heart. And what about us? What about us after all the planning, all the excitement of Christmas. After we've gathered together on Christmas Eve. After we've enjoyed the comforts of spending time with friends and families. After eating celebratory meals and all the holiday extras. After all the presents are opened. What now?



Often the time after Christmas can seem like a kind of let down, even a sort of depression. In the seasonal darkness of December, we can lose sight of the joy that is ours through the incarnation of Jesus, Emanuel, God with us. I'm finding this year particularly challenging, due in large part to the unpredictable weather we've been experiencing. While I'm extremely grateful that we were able to join together on Christmas Eve, I've really missed the Sundays we've had to cancel because of the weather. I'm a firm believer in better to be safe than sorry, but I sincerely miss the joy of coming together for worship.

However, I also realize that like Mary, we can also devote some time to pondering just exactly what the birth of Jesus means to us. In the business of our daily lives, it's easy to forget this miracle birth and the blessings that come to us through the mercy of a loving God. We can take some time to ponder again the miracle of the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. We can take comfort in knowing that God does love us, just as we are. We can rejoice in anticipation as God's kingdom draws near to us. Through the winter darkness we can see God's light shining upon us. As we anticipate the coming new year, may we all share the blessing of God's unconditional love given to us through Jesus Christ.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

Osceola Recycling

Recycling in LeRoy is again on hiatus. There is no recycling at the LeRoy Village garage in January and February 2026. Recycling will resume on Saturday, March 7, 2026. There is good news, however. Starting in March you will be able to recycle #5 plastics and colored glass. These items are along with #1 clear plastics, #2 plastics, plastic milk cartons, tin, aluminum, paper, Styrofoam, glass and cardboard. All recyclables should be clean and crushed where possible. The center in Reed City remains open.

Gifts for Kids

The Gifts for Kids event was held on December 13. There were 90 families registered which totals 383 individuals. Augustana's participation is to provide one or two games for each family. Due to the generosity of Augustana's congregation we easily accomplished this goal. Family members had many games to choose from for any age. Thanks to Julie Seguin for her help with this project. It is a rewarding event and one that we look forward to each year.



Northwest Osceola Food Pantry

In December the Fourth Sunday Food Pantry donation was reinstated. A new twist is that each month a different item will be collected. For the month of **January** the item is **toothpaste**. Toothpaste tubes should be at least 3.1 oz. up to 5.4 oz. (please no travel size tubes). Any brand, any flavor, any style is welcome. The food pantry is excited to be adding toiletries to their list of items available to their clients. As usual if you are unable to shop, shopping can be done for you. Please talk with Jan if you need shopping help.

January 2026 Assisting Ministers

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2026
- Food Pantry, January 5, 2026 9-12pm
- Epiphany, January 6, 2026
- Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 2026
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19, 2026
- Council Meeting, January 18, 2026 10:15am
- WELCA Meeting, January 20, 2026 10:30am
- Food Pantry Sunday, January 25, 2026 9am
- Deadline for February Messenger, January 26, 2026



AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

There was no Council meeting in December. Approved minutes from the November, 2025, meeting will be published in the February, 2026, MESSENGER.



There was no WELCA meeting in December. Approved minutes from the November, 2025, meeting will be published in the February, 2026, MESSENGER.

Happy Birthday!

Ted Raven – Jan. 2

Berner Gorden – Jan. 22



A heartfelt thank you to all the members of Augustana Lutheran Church for your generous Christmas gift. Pastor Phil and I are sincerely touched by your kindness.

-Pastor Sharon



Happy Anniversary

Mark and Heather Allen – Jan. 29



PRAYER CONCERNS: Ken Forsberg; The family of Don Paterson; The family of Arvid Otberg; The family of Joanne Hurley; Jaydon; Carol L; Pat W.; Family of Sawyer; Diane Westfall; Steve Sadler; Jeff; Annie; Carlton; Scott M; Jill G; Mary B; Amy Brown; Pat O; Ron & Candy Karr; Leta H; Stephanie G; Anissa; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

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

Secretary – Julie Seguin (Cell) 231-878-3119 email: jkseguin@gmail.com

Members: Michael Barnes (Cell) 231-884-7128 email: birdhunterup@gmail.com

Jim Carmody (Cell) 231-288-0731 email: sjcarmody85@yahoo.com

Brian Hammar (Cell) 231-920-4087 email: bhammar@att.net

Kurt Hammar (Cell) 231-578-1153 email:heatherhamar1@gmail.com



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| | |  |  | 1 Happy New Year! Office Closed | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Food Pantry 9-11am | 6  | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11  | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Council Meeting 10:15am | 19  | 20 WELCA 10:30am | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Food Pantry Sunday | 26 Newsletter Due | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |