

SEPTEMBER 2024

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



Recently the words to an old hymn keep going through my mind. *“Open, my eyes, that I may see...”* The hymn emphasizes the Holy Spirit's power to show us God's truth and set us free from *“everything false.”* I am particularly drawn to the chorus, which begins *“silently now I wait for Thee”* because I understand the importance of being quiet when we strive to listen

the Holy Spirit. The hymn also promises that *“everything false will disappear.”*

While I appreciate the hymns focus on the power of the Holy Spirit to see, I also believe that it's important for us to see some of the harsh realities of the world in which we live. Because we live in a world filled with all kinds of sights and sounds, our brains learn to filter out what is important and those things that are not. It's easy for us to be preoccupied with the challenges of our own lives and the fail to see the suffering, the needs of others. If we don't allow the Spirit to open our eyes, it's difficult for us to see those who are hungry, homeless, suffering from illness, hopeless, lonely, etc.

However, if we ask the Spirit to open our eyes to see the suffering around us, we also open ourselves to visions of hopefulness. It's vital that we don't allow the magnitude of the world's problems overwhelm us. We can feel unable to make any kind of significant changes. The idea that “I'm only one person” can stop us from even trying. But with the help of the Spirit, we can see all that is good in the world and in ourselves. Visions of possibilities can inspire us to work to make this world a better place for everyone.

And the really good news is that even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference. When I was checking out a Meijer the other day I saw someone's frustration that the self-check out counter wasn't working correctly. He pushed the help button and the store employee immediately came over. In a gruff tone he said “It's not scanning.” There was no friendly greeting, no thank you and I couldn't help thinking that it could have been an opportunity to make someone else's day. A warm smile and a sincere thank you can go a long way to helping someone else feel appreciated. I'm well aware that many people feel resentment and believe that having to check their own stuff is an imposition. But I believe it's a shame to let negative feelings influence how we treat each other.

If we allow the Spirit to open our eyes, if we see all the beauty of God's world, if we see each other as God's beloved children, we will also see all the opportunities we have to make this world a better place for each and every one of us.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
June 17, 2024



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

Devotional read by Heather – A Mustard Seed.

Members: Jim Carmody, Heather Hammar, Ken Forsberg, Becky Miller, Connie Burgess, Julie Seguin. Guest: Terry Marckwardt, Treasurer.

Agenda: Motion by Heather to approve agenda as presented, with support from Jim. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by Heather to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2024 meeting, with support from Connie. Carried.

Financial Reports: Terry presented a financial report summarizing the YTD, and some suggested budget ideas for 2024-2025. Council members will consider this, and act on next year's budget at the next meeting. There was discussion about the difference between benevolence and outreach. It was decided that benevolence is money sent to the synod, and all other charitable donations will be considered outreach. Motion by Julie to approve the presented treasurer and financial secretary reports, supported by Connie. Carried.

No communications.

Building/Grounds Report – George was not able to attend the meeting. Mulch has been placed, and bushes have been trimmed by Ted Raven, Mark Allen, Mike Barnes, and George Klingler. Doug Miller will help with the mowing after he retires on June 30.

Old Business:

Annual employee reviews update. The personnel committee (Connie and Jim) met with Angela and Patty. The reports will be written, signed and dated, and filed the report in the appropriate employee file. The committee will meet with Kim at a later date.

Parsonage agreement update, Heather can prepare an agreement if needed, and reported that Nikki is very happy, and is doing so much to make the home a good place to be. It was decided that no agreement is needed.

New Business:

The 2024-2025 Budget was discussed further. Will be acted upon at the July Council Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on August 18, 2024 after service.

Internet quote was received by Angela from AT&T offering a lower rate of \$135/mo, down from \$135/mo. Agreed to have Angela go ahead and arrange for the better price.

George's term will be up in 2024. A person will be needed to fill that position.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
July 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Becky Miller at 10:15.

Members: Heather Hammar, Ken Forsberg, & Connie Burgess by phone, and Becky Miller, George Klingler, Julie Seguin. Guest: Terry Marckwardt, Treasurer.

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

Minutes: Motion by George to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting, with support from Becky. Carried.

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

Old Business:

Annual Reviews – Kim has not been done yet, Becky plans to contact her.

New Business:

The budget for 2024-2025 was discussed and suggestions made. Motion by Ken with support from Heather to include the proposed budget in the business of the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting will be held August 18 after service.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 with the Lord's Prayer. The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

WELCA Meeting Approved Minutes

June 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Jan Marckwardt.

Those present: Joan Chave`, Sue Klingler, Mary Raven, and Mary Annette Gorden.

A **devotional** was read by Jan Marckwardt titled "Morning Prayer".

Correspondence: None

The Minutes from the May 21, 2024 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved with a motion by Sue Klingler and second by Joan Chave`.

The Treasurer's Report from May 2024 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was approved with a motion from Mary Raven and second by Sue Klingler. The balance in the account as of May 31, 2024 is \$511.12.

Mary Annette Gorden read the WELCA statement.

OLD BUSINESS:

Christmas in July is set for noon Tuesday, July 23 at Burkes in Cadillac.

Our plan is to hold our August meeting at Green Acres. Confirmation has not been made.

Our request for funds from the Scrip account will be brought up at the Annual Meeting. Mary Annette will present the request along with a short explanation of the HeadStart project.

The Father's Day brunch was a success. The men enjoyed biscuits and gravy, bread pudding and the breakfast casseroles that were served to them.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting will be August 20, 2024. In July there will be no business meeting due to "Christmas in July" on July 23 at noon. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:55 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Marckwardt





WELCA NEWS

What does WELCA stand for? Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We invite all women from Augustana to join us on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30. One of our favorite projects is the HeadStart program (a Federal program) held at Tustin Elementary School for 3-4-5 year olds who qualify for the program. In the past we have supplied them with tote bags filled with fun and educational items they can use such as crayons, books, scissors, glue, etc. This year we will be giving the teacher Visa gift cards to purchase necessary educational items for three class rooms. Enrollment is at 41 but could go higher once classes begin. These gift cards will be distributed around Christmas.

WELCA has become aware that a new program set up by the State of Michigan has been initiated at the preschool. This program is titled Great Start Readiness Program or GSRP. While WELCA is unable to financially support both programs, you can go to Amazon and view the wish list for GSRP and contribute buy purchasing an item from their list ([click here](#)).

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 17** at 10:30 in the fellowship hall.



UPLIFT PINE RIVER AREA KIDS

Uplift is beginning its eighth year. Food is being provided to students preschool through high school and the first day of packing is **Thursday September 12 at 9:00 a.m.** We look forward to our volunteers returning this year to pack and delivery the bags. We are excited to have purchased a new trailer which we should have sometime in September. The Uplift budget will be tight this year because of this expense. We received a grant of \$2,500 to use to purchase the trailer but that will not cover all the cost. The Board is working hard to come up with the necessary funds while not jeopardizing the quality or amount of food given to the students.

If you aren't a volunteer or if you know of someone who would like to volunteer please let Jan or Julie know. Uplift volunteers are a great group of people and we really do have fun on Thursdays.

God's gift of music

What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can. God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God's love.

A spirit of gladness

Samuel Upham, a 19th-century theology professor, was known for his preaching and humor. On his deathbed in 1904, Upham was surrounded by friends and seemed to pass away. "No, he's not dead," said one. "His feet are warm, and no one ever died with warm feet."

Hearing that, Upham opened his eyes and replied, "Jan Hus did!" — referring to the Christian martyr burned at the stake in 1415.

"We are sad by nature, and Satan is the spirit of sadness," said Martin Luther. "But God is the spirit of gladness and preserves us." As Upham's final words reveal, he was preserved by God's spirit of gladness, even in his final moments.

PRAYER
list...

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

September 2024 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
Sept 1	Julie Seguin	Mary Raven	Ted & Mary Raven	Ken Forsberg & Connie Burgess	Ken Forsberg	Julie Seguin	Connie Burgess
Sept 8		Ken Goddard	Ken & Sandy Goddard				Jeanette Otberg
Sept 15	Julie Seguin				Jim Carmody	Julie Seguin	
Sept 22							
Sept 29		Sue Carmody					Sue Carmody



Oatmeal Drive

To help the Uplift budget, Augustana will be conducting an instant, flavored oatmeal drive before the end of the year. Oatmeal should be in a 10 pack package. More information will be available later when we get closer to the drive.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Labor Day, *September 2, 2024*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 8, 2024*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2024*
- Uplift resumes, *September 12, 2024 9am at Covenant*
- Food Pantry, *September, 16, 2024 9-12pm*
- Council Meeting, *September 16, 2024 6:30pm*
- WELCA Meeting, *September 17, 2024 10:30am*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2024*
- Deadline for October Messenger, *September 24, 2024*



Happy Birthday!

Ava Hammar – Sept. 7

Tim Seguin – Sept. 26



Happy Anniversary

Jim and Sue Carmody – Sept. 21

Co-laborers with Christ

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped.

The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant. Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

That's when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: "This is the way my heavenly Father allows me to 'help' him build his kingdom!" The church leader pictured God busy "seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands 'helping.'"

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he "chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him," said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!



September 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Labor Day Office closed	3 Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm	4	5	6	7 
8	9	10	11	12 Uplift Resumes 9am at Covenant	13	14
15	16 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	17 WELCA 10:30am	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Newsletter Due	25	26	27	28
29	30					