



# NOVEMBER

2023



## Augustana Lutheran Church

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: 9 am

Phone: 231-829-3837



*“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



*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good... “ (Psalm 107:1)*

In November we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, often by gathering together with family and friends to enjoy a bountiful meal. My family generally takes this opportunity to ask the question “What are you thankful for?” It's a time for us to share our thankfulness with one another. And so I'm going to answer

that question and then suggest that each of you spend some time thinking about your own answers to this simple question.

I'm thankful for my family: husband, daughters, sons, step-daughter, grandchildren, bonus grandchildren and a new great-grand baby. I'm thankful that even though I'm officially “retired,” I'm able to serve as pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church. It's a long drive each Sunday, but most of it runs through the magnificent Manistee National Forest. I'm thankful for our secretary Angela, who is a joy to work with and goes above and beyond in everything she does. And I'm especially thankful for the people of Augustana, who are supportive, appreciative and shower me with love.

All that being said, it's not always easy for any of us to be thankful. Let's face it, life gets hard, and sometimes we might even wonder if God really cares for us. At times like this I find comfort in the words of a simple farmer.

A farmer, dressed in bib-overalls was asked to say grace at a church breakfast. He began, “Lord, I hate buttermilk.” And then continued, “Lord, I hate lard.” He went on to add, “And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw-white flour.” Then he concluded with these words: “But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm, fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen.”

Peace & Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

# Augustana Council

## APPROVED AMENDED MINUTES

September 18, 2023



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

Devotional read by Becky.

Members: Jim Carmody, George Klingler, Becky Miller, Heather Hammar, Ken Forsberg, Julie Seguin.

Guest: Terry Marckwardt.

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

Minutes: Motion by George to approve the meetings from August 21, 2023, with support from Jim. Carried.

Financial Reports: Motion by Heather to approve the treasurer's and financial secretary reports, supported by Julie. Carried.

No communications.

Building/Grounds Report – George: Power washing is done. Parsonage internet, nothing new. Mowing going well with Ken Goddard and Jim Carmody. Drywalling/painting is done. Snowplowing is all arranged, same as last year \$125/per plowing, and he'll shovel the sidewalks when he's here.

Discussion about purchasing a push mower, weed whipper, and a hedge trimmer. Jim will investigate possibility of purchasing a electric mower and electric weed whipper. He will report next month.

Personnel – Jim: Nothing to report.

Renucci House on Wednesday, October 18. Becky will schedule it.

Facebook presence is great. Staff photos were just added.

Sound System: Hopefully to be installed by November. It has been paid in full.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Sign-up sheet for volunteers to serve on a committee in the back of the church. Volunteer committee to set date.

Patty will be gone October 1, Becky looking into subs. Pastor Sharon will be gone October 29, Becky has talked to Peggy Burns, and she can be here that day.

Pastor Sharon would like to have Plexiglas for the altar covering to prevent spills. Heather is going to check to see what she has at the salon.

Becky will ask Angela to put together a binder with descriptions of jobs: Communion Preparer, Communion Assisting Minister, Open/Close Church – Greeter, Teller, Lector/Prayer Leader, Projector Operator (that's already done). Discussion about taking communion at the altar rail on the first Sunday of the month.

Sharing the Lord's Table to be included in the bulletin.

Patty will continue to take care of scheduling the piano tuning.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Seguin

# Let Your Thankfulness Show

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!--1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Sages, mystics and prophets through the ages have taught us that cultivating an attitude of thankfulness will not only help us grow as disciples, but thankfulness will also bring us closer to God and neighbor, and give us a happier and more fulfilling life.

And how do you cultivate thankfulness? First and always, through prayer. Consider how many of the Psalms offer thanks, or how often the Apostle Paul gives thanks for the people and blessings of his ministry. Pray always, and always with thanksgiving. Keep a “blessings list” and pray through it regularly.

Giving thanks to God can nourish thankfulness in your own heart and soul. And you can also help encourage thankfulness in your community by developing a habit of thanking others - verbally, by text or email, or with cards and notes.

Since our national holiday of Thanksgiving takes place in November, this month offers the perfect opportunity to start.

Throughout November, look for every opportunity to thank someone for any reason, big or small. It could be a stranger who holds a door open for you, a clerk who rings up your sale, or a neighbor who does you a favor. Keep track of the number of times you can say “thank you.” You may be surprised. For fun, compete with others to see who can say “thank you” the most times in November.

In the process of saying “thank you” you will not only develop a habit that will change your heart and soul, you will also change your relationship with neighbors, your community and our world. And that will be a real cause for thanksgiving.

*-Rob Blezard*

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## Gratitude galore

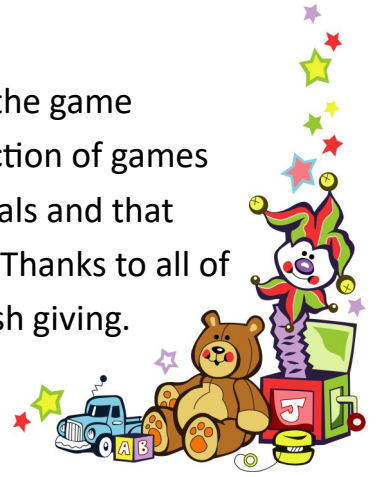
If you've ever kept a gratitude journal, you know they're fairly easy to fill. Edward King, an English bishop known for working with the poor, may not have had a fancy journal. But these words evoke such a list: “I will thank God ... for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. ... for the awe of the sunset, the beauty of flowers, the smile of friendship and the look of love ... for the leaves on the trees in spring and autumn, for the witness of the leafless trees through the winter, teaching us that death is sleep and not destruction, for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, oh Lord, the earth is full of thy riches!”

King concludes: “And yet how much more I will thank and praise God for the strength of my body enabling me to work, for the refreshment of sleep, for my daily bread, for the days of painless health, for the gift of my mind and the gift of my conscience, for his loving guidance of my mind ever since it first began to think, and of my heart ever since it first began to love.”

## Gifts for Kids

Due to the generosity of the Augustana congregation in years past, the game inventory for Gifts for Kids is high. There will be no need for a collection of games this year. Money is also received throughout the year from individuals and that money is used to purchase games especially when they are on sale. Thanks to all of you for realizing the importance of this project and for your unselfish giving.

The event will be held this year on **Saturday, December 9.**



## LEROY RECYCLING

Recycling in LeRoy is 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Village Garage in LeRoy the first Saturday of the month except for January and February. Items accepted for recycling include clear glass bottles and jars (no broken pieces and remove lids), cardboard, newspapers, magazines, paper, cans, aluminum, plastic milk containers, #1 (clear only and no clam shell containers) and #2 plastic containers (remove all lids and tops), Styrofoam (except packaging peanuts) and unbroken compact florescent light bulbs (CFL's). **Separate all of your items and crush as much as you are able to help conserve space.**

The program is associated with Recycle of Osceola County, Inc. in Reed City.



**PRAYER CONCERNS\***: Janice Peterson; Jeff N.; Anissa; Bob Light; Mary Annette Gorden; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

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## Thanksgiving humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

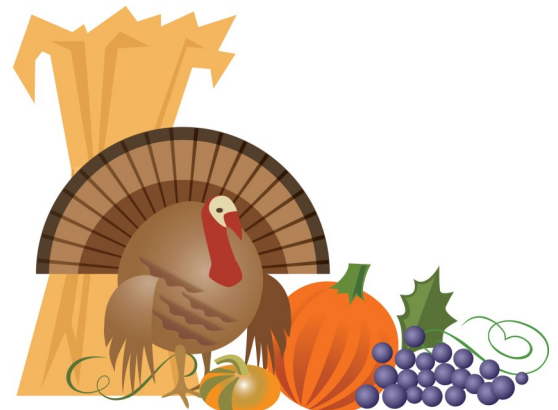
Why did the turkey decline dessert?  
Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?  
To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?  
Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?  
There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?  
People were fighting over the drumsticks.



## November 2023 Assisting Ministers

<b>Date</b>	<b>Projector Operator</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Communion Preparer</b>	<b>Greeters/ Open/Close Church</b>	<b>Lector/ Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Tellers</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Host</b>
<b>November 5</b>	Julie Seguin	Sue Carmody	Sue Klingler	George & Sue Klingler	Jim Carmody	George Klingler	Sue Carmody
<b>November 12</b>	Julie Seguin	Becky Miller	Becky Miller	Doug & Becky Miller	Harvey Miller	Heather Hammar	
<b>November 19</b>			Becky Miller			Becky Miller	
<b>November 26</b>	Julie Seguin					Heather Hammar Julie Seguin	



Sign up now for our handbell choir!  
Call, text or email Julie Seguin for  
more information.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Sun., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Saving Time ends – FALL BACK!
- Sun., Nov. 5<sup>h</sup> – All Saints Sunday
- Sun., Nov 5<sup>th</sup> –Noisy Offering
- Mon., Nov 6<sup>th</sup> –Food Pantry 9-12pm
- Tues., Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Election Day
- Sat., Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day
- Sun., Nov 12<sup>th</sup>—Noisy Offering
- Sun., Nov 12<sup>th</sup> -150th Planning Committee Meeting
- Mon., Nov 20<sup>h</sup> –Food Pantry 9-12pm
- Mon., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM – Council Meeting
- Tues., Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM – WELCA meeting
- Thurs., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thanksgiving Day-Office Closed
- Sun., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King Sunday
- Sun., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Decorating
- Wed., Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for December MESSENGER



### Happy Birthday!

Robert Light – Nov. 1  
Leslie Christie– Nov. 3  
Myrna Griep – Nov. 4  
Denna Light – Nov. 7



### Happy Anniversary

George and Sue Klingler – Nov. 23

### **From scarcity to abundance**

Author Parker Palmer recounted being stuck on a storm-grounded airplane for hours. Though it was lunchtime, meals weren't available, and passengers grew irritable. One flight attendant apologized for the delay, expressing empathy for people's stress, and then passed around two breadbaskets, asking everyone to contribute something.

"Some of you brought snacks to tide you over, and some of you have a few LifeSavers or chewing gum," she said. "And if you don't have anything edible, you have a picture of your children or spouse ... or a bookmark or a business card." Then, she said, "we'll pass the baskets around again, and everyone can take out what they need."

Complaints soon ceased, Palmer recalled, as passengers searched for items and stopped focusing on themselves. The plane became a community of sharing as scarcity and deprivation transformed into abundance and joy.





# November 2023

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 	1	2	3	4 Recycling 9-11am 
5 Noisy Offering	6 Food Pantry 9-12pm 	7 	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day 
12 Noisy Offering  Planning Mtg 150th	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Food Pantry 9-12pm  Council Mtg 6:30pm	21 WELCA Meeting 10:30am	22	23 Thanksgiving	24 	25
26 	27	28	29 December Newsletter Due	30		