



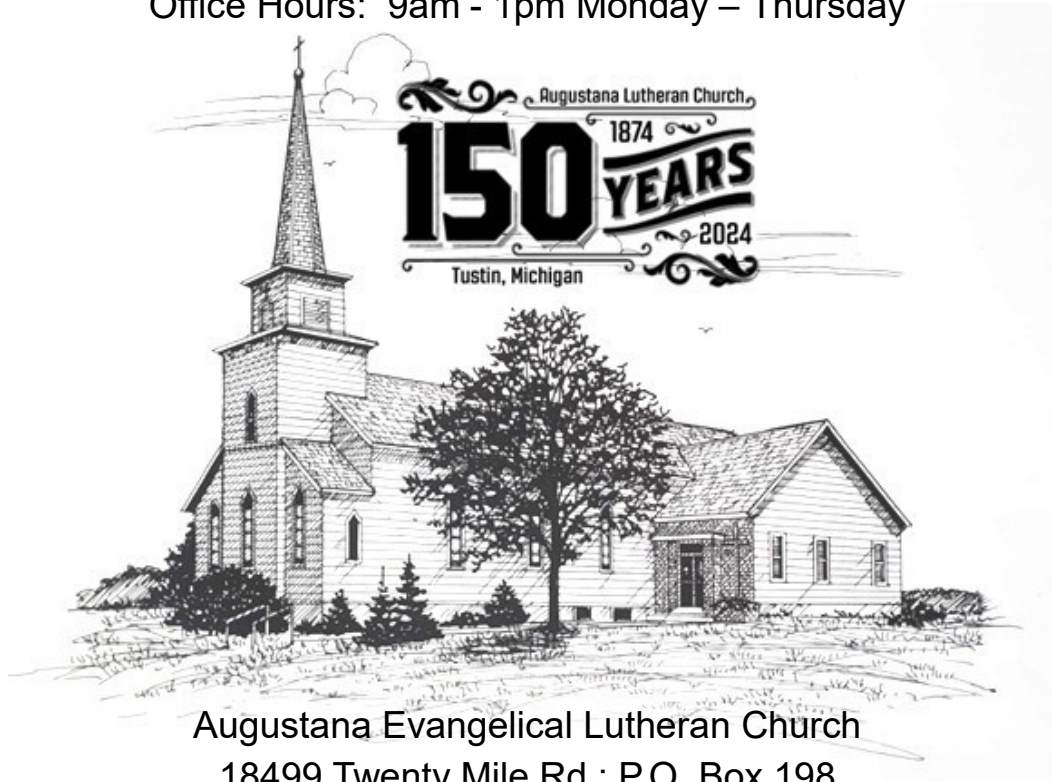
## Augustana Lutheran Church Messenger

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



*"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



*“Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet, not my will, but yours be done.”* (Luke 22:42)

Recently, I've been thinking about the term “Prayer Warrior”, a term frequently used by many of my friends. Sometimes, when people are facing various types of crises in their lives, I see Facebook posts calling for all prayer warriors to pray. I think the term prayer warrior is used to describe people with a strong, unwavering belief in the power of prayer. People who are unashamed of their belief in God and not afraid of using prayer to ask for help in times of need. Sometimes prayer warriors join together in prayer chains (prayer armies??) which often, but not always, result in miraculous results.

I also strongly believe in the power of prayer. I believe that prayer sometimes results in miracles. I try to include prayer as an intentional, devotional part of my everyday life. However, I personally find the term “prayer warrior” disturbing. It is vitally important for us to strive to keep our lines of communication with God always open, However, it's equally important for each of us to remember who ultimately is in charge; God's will and not our own. Acknowledging God's sovereignty over our lives can be challenging, but it can help us to truly appreciate the power of prayer.

The realization that God is the one who is in charge can remind us that prayer is first and foremost a request, not an order. Sometimes it becomes easy for us to forget the dynamics of our relationship with God. Occasionally I find myself offering somewhat frivolous prayers like: “please help me find a parking space, don't let the rain spoil the picnic, or help the Cubs win the World Series again”! While relatively innocuous, this kind of prayer can become a type of superstition. I have friends who regularly use a “find me a parking space prayer” and maintain it always works for them, just like magic.

More concerning to me, however, is the image I have of a “warrior”; someone who demands and fights for what they believe to be right. To me, being a warrior would mean that I can tell God what to do. Don't misunderstand me, there are lots of times when I wish this were true, but it's not. I have to trust that God loves each and every one of us, that God does know what is best. Truthfully, this is always hard, sometimes seemingly beyond my ability to understand. At those difficult times, I find comfort in the words of Jesus before his crucifixion: *“...not my will, but yours...”*

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

# AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## APPROVED MINUTES

March 18, 2024



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

Devotional Bear Good Fruit by Joyce Meyer read by Julie.

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

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

Minutes: Motion by George to approve the amended minutes from February 19, 2024, with support from Ken. Carried.

Financial Reports: The treasurer and financial secretary balanced for February 2024. Motion by Connie to approve the treasurer and financial secretary reports, supported by Jim. Carried.

No communications: Heather: Thank you to Jim Carmody for stepping in to help with the Sunday services recently. Jim reported that 140 boxes of cereal have been collected so far for Uplift, which is great! Also, Joan Chave has received an anonymous donation which should cover the cost of the materials for the quilt being made for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Building/Grounds Report – George reported that Connie Burgess donated an electric lawn mower, and is to be stored in the basement until it's time to be used.

### Old Business:

- A. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will meet again April 7 after the service. The note pads and coffee cups have been delivered and look great.
- B. Renucci House date in May is still to be determined.
- C. Workdays scheduled for May 4 and/or June 1. Windows will be washed after power washing.
- D. 2 bids were received for painting the fellowship hall, kitchen, bathroom hall, and the back entrance. After some discussion, it was decided to go with Marty's Painting with his bid of \$1,750 plus paint and supplies. He will pass his discount for the paint and supplies to Augustana, and the cost should total less than \$2,000. Motion by George, with support from Jim to proceed. Carried. We'll pick out paint colors in April/May, and schedule the job to be done beginning June 3.
- E. It was noted that there will be 2 baptisms on Easter Sunday.

### New Business:

- A. Becky & George met with Mark Dennis from Pine River Schools, and Office Shane on February 29. Augustana would be a potential safe place for PR students if the schools had to be evacuated in an emergency. Becky is waiting on an email with more information.
- B. Pastor Sharon's absences: March 24 and April 14 – Pastor Phil will cover, May 5 – Peggy will cover, and June 9, Jim will read prepared sermon.
- C. Patty will be gone April 21 & 28. Music will be played through the computer per Angela.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Becky will read the devotional next month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Seguin

# WELCA Meeting

## Approved Minutes

March 19, 2024



The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. by President Jeanette Otberg.

**Those present:** Barb Hazlett, Jan Marckwardt, Joan Chave`, Sue Klingler, and Sue Carmody

Jeanette read a **devotional** from "Tea Time with God".

**Correspondence:** Request from New Hope Center for donation. A donation of \$50 was approved.

**The Minutes** from the February 20, 2024 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved with a motion by Sue Klingler and second by Barb Hazlett.

**The Treasurer's Report** from February 2024 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was approved with a motion from Sue Carmody and second by Joan Chave`. The balance in the account as of February 29, 2024 is \$356.34.

Sue Klingler read the **WELCA purpose statement**.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

WELCA now has the funds for the HeadStart project next fall.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Joan Chave` indicated that not many people from the congregation have made their square for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt. The ladies who quilt have volunteered to help people with their squares. It is necessary to have the squares completed in April to allow ample time to construct the quilt.

Sue Carmody reported that the cereal drive for Uplift is going very well. Several people have donated money and cereal has been purchased for them. The drive will continue through April 14.

Barb Hazlett reported that the Cadillac group interested in helping to stop Human Trafficking is going well.

Barb shared a copy of the minutes from the Women of ELCA North/West Lower Michigan Board Meeting. They hope to promote the Spring Gathering at Bethlehem Church in Traverse City on April 27 in the Living Threads. They are also looking ahead to the Convention and Fall Retreat at St. Paul's in Reed City on September 28, 2024.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting will be April 16, 2024. It is hoped that this meeting will be held at Green Acres in Cadillac.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:15 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jan Marckwardt





Once again WELCA has been blessed to be able to hold a meeting at Green Acres in Cadillac. This is always a special meeting with Myrna, Shelby, and even Carlton in attendance and joined by several members from WELCA. We are planning to meet at Green Acres again perhaps in June.

Discussion at our meeting included the ever popular Christmas in July. The date was set for **July 23** but the venue has not been chosen. We will be sure to let all ladies, family, and friends of WELCA know as soon as a place has been chosen.

We also unanimously decided to continue our support of Pine River's HeadStart program even though the enrollment has increased. We hope to talk with the HeadStart teacher later to find out exactly what the students need.

Our meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30. All women of Augustana and their friends are welcome to join us as we support community projects and enjoy socializing with each other.



## Cereal Drive Update

One of the best words to describe Augustana people and their friends is GENEROUS. Once again we have proven how generous we can be. How many boxes of cereal were collected for Uplift? A whopping 273 (and a case of small cereals for the snack bags)! A huge thank you goes to everyone who donated cereal and to those who donated money to buy cereal. Uplift is overwhelmed by the generosity. Special thanks to Jim and Sue Carmody for spearheading the successful drive and doing a lot of shopping with the cash donations. God is good.



# Baptisms IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

On Easter Sunday, we were blessed with the celebration of two baptisms in Joan Swanson's family.



## First-team followers

Jesus' ascension into heaven shortly after his resurrection was "one of God's most audacious ploys," according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. "Jesus, resurrected, is Master of space and time, yet he passes on the work of spreading the Good News to his imperfect disciples, who ultimately pass it on to us (who are also imperfect disciples)."

By contrast, most Old Testament patriarchs often stayed on the throne until they died. Many of them could have benefited from a timely "exit strategy," Ramirez notes.

"As a child, I always felt that the world would have been a better place if the resurrected Lord had just taken over everything," Ramirez continues. "But though Jesus is active with us ('For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' — Matthew 18:20, NRSV), we're part of the first team now."



## Don't be root-bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riggerbach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.

“If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots,” Riggerbach wrote in her gardening column. “If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots. That's better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden.”

In the same way, it's easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can't reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!

## Geraniums for Pentecost

Sign-up is available until **May 5th** to honor loved ones in the Pentecost bulletin

Your donation of geraniums are to be brought in by **May 19th** for Pentecost Sunday and will be planted when the weather allows.



DEWING CENTER • 202 S. Albert St • LeRoy, MI



## Burdell Township Trash Disposal Day Please No Loose Trash

Loose Trash, Must Be Bagged or  
Boxed

Saturday, May 11, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – Noon

### \*\* LOCATION \*\*

South of the Tustin Elementary School  
Follow the Signs  
For Burdell Township  
Property Owners and Residents Only

NO Yard Waste, Paint, Oil, Hazardous Waste, Garden  
Chemicals, Concrete, Stones, Dirt, No tires, Wood, Etc.

Questions call  
Township Office at 829-4049

Japanese Heritage & Culture

**May 18, Saturday, at 3:00 pm**

Hear and see the Japanese American Story along with:

- Kimono, Doll, & Fan displays
- Yukata dressing demo
- Omusubi (rice balls) and Onigirazu (rice sandwiches) demo for taste sampling

\$5 Suggested Minimum Donation

**PRAYER**  
list...

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** The family of Phyllis Boorsma, The Goddards, Jayne Siglin; Janice Peterson; Anissa; Mary Annette Gorden; Carlton Plyler; Vicky Grandi; Jack Forsberg; Mary R; Kathy Draper; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

# May 2024 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
May 5		X	X	Arv & Jeanete Otberg	Jim Carmody	George Klingler	Jeanette Otberg
May 12 Mother's Day			Ruth Hammar				Mother's Day Breakfast
May 19 Pentecost				Connie Burgess & Ken Forsberg	Connie Burgess & Ken Forsberg		Connie Burgess
May 26							



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- National Day of Prayer, *May 2, 2024*
- Spring Clean-up, *May 4, 2024*
- Food Pantry, *May 6, 2024 9-12pm*
- Ascension Day, *May 9, 2024*
- Mother's Day, *May 12, 2024*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 18, 2024*
- Pentecost, *May 19, 2024*
- Graduation Honors, *May 19, 2024*
- Council Meeting, *May 20, 2024 6:30pm*
- Food Pantry, *May 20, 2024 9-12pm*
- WELCA Meeting, *May 21, 2024 10:30am*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 26, 2024*
- Memorial Day, *May 27, 2024*
- Deadline for June Messenger, *May 29, 2024*



### Happy Birthday!

Devere Byers – May 12  
Bonnie Smith – May 28  
Kathleen Tuttle – May 30  
Julie Seguin – May 30

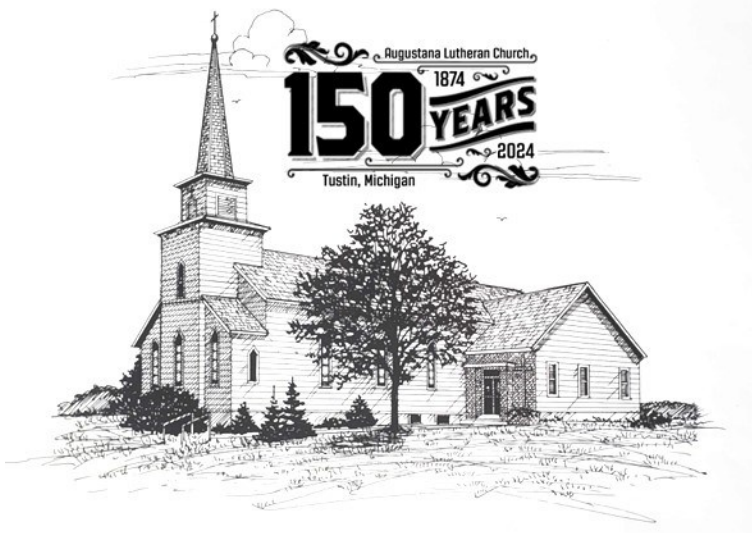


### Happy Anniversary

Kurt and Heather Hammar – May 20

## SAVE THE DATE

July 14th 2024 We celebrate 150 years!



### **Consoler, healer, guide**

Holy Spirit, Lord divine,  
Come from heights of heav'n and shine,  
Come with blessed radiance bright!  
Come, O Father of the poor,  
Come, whose treasured gifts endure,  
Come, our heart's unfailing light!



Of consolers, wisest, best,  
And our souls' most welcome guest,  
Sweet refreshment, sweet repose.  
In our labor rest most sweet,  
Pleasant coolness in the heat,  
Consolation in our woes. ...

Cleanse our soiled hearts of sin,  
Arid souls refresh within,  
Wounded lives to health restore!  
Bend the stubborn heart and will,  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,  
Guide the wayward home once more!

—12th-century hymn



# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 	1 Bell Choir every Wednesday 6pm 	2	3	4 Spring Clean-up 
5	6 Food Pantry 9-12pm 	7	8	9 Ascension Day	10	11 Burdell Trash Day
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday Graduation Honors	20 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Mtg 6:30pm	21 WELCA 10:30am	22	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28	29 Newsletter Due	30	31	