

MAY

Messenger 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

Church Office: 231-829-3837

www.augustanatustin.org

"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

I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor. — Martin Luther

For me one of the great joys of leading worship at Augustana Lutheran Church is listening to the beautiful music we make together each Sunday morning. As a congregation we are truly blessed to have a talented musician like Patty Surguy, Her talents go beyond merely playing the music to inspiring us to join together in sing God's praises.

When she took a well deserved time away, her presence was sorely missed. However, once again we were blessed by our new secretary Angela's ability to provide us with prerecorded music. In spite of a few minor issues, such as low volume, I think we all appreciated being able to sing. Although we were all a little tentative and unsure at first, the longer we sang the better we sounded.

The thing that stuck me most was watching us get better the more we listened to each other. As we became more confident, we were able to experience more joy in praising the Lord in song. I came away with the thought that making an effort to actually listen to each other doesn't only improve our ability to sing.

I believe that careful listening to others can improve our lives together as a congregation and members of the amazing world God has created for us.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Sharon



Augustana Council

Approved minutes from the March 2023 council meeting will be published in the June 2023 Messenger

WELCA Meeting

Approved Minutes
March 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Jeanette Otberg.

Those present: Barb Hazlett, Sue Carmody, Mary Annette Gorden, Joan Chave`, and Jan Marckwardt.

Correspondence: None

The Minutes from the January 17, 2023 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were presented with a motion to accept by Barb Hazlett and second by Joan Chave`. The Minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's reports for January and February 2023 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved by a motion from Sue Carmody with a second by Barb Hazlett. The balance in the account as of February 28, 2023 is \$683.09.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Jeanette Otberg informed the ladies that Iron Skillet in Cadillac has a nice space that can be reserved for our Christmas in July luncheon. All agreed this was an excellent idea. The date is tentatively set for **Wednesday, July 19 at noon** depending on the availability of the room at Iron Skillet. Jeanette will check on this.

On June 28 Barb Hazlett will be presenting a talk on Human Trafficking for the Senior Enrichment Day at Big Rapids High School to make people aware of the problem. She will also be attending Homeland Security training in April.

Mary Annette Gorden was pleased to inform the group that \$200 has been secured from Augustana's Scrip money to be used for Headstart supplies. WELCA will also financially support this project with a motion presented by Barb Hazlett and support from Joan Chave`. Mary Annette will meet with the Headstart teacher to discuss the needs of the 35 students prior to purchasing supplies.

Mary Annette suggested giving Easter flowers or plants to Augustana's members who are residents of Green Acres. There are six members currently living there and all agreed this was a wonderful idea. Mary Annette will purchase the plants or flowers and make sure they are delivered to the residents.

The WELCA ladies would like to hold a meeting at Green Acres to allow two of Augustana's ladies residing there to attend. This meeting would be held on **Tuesday, May 16 at 10:30**. Mary Annette will contact Green Acres to set this up.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 10:30am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:19am with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted



May, 2023 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
May 7		X	X	Ken & Sandy Goddard	Mary Raven	Mike Barnes & Ted Raven	Sandy Goddard
May 14		George Klingler	Sue & George Klingler	Ted & Mary Raven	Mike Barnes	Doreen Barnes & George Klingler	Mother's Day Breakfast
May 21	Doreen Barnes	Sue Carmody	Arv & Jenette Otberg	Arv & Jenette Otberg	Jim Carmody	Doreen Barnes & George Klingler	Mary A Gorden
May 28	Julie Seguin	Ken Goddard	Sandy Goddard	Ted & Mary Raven	Joan Swanson	Ted Raven	Sandy Goddard

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Thurs., May 4th National Day of Prayer
- Mon., May 8th - 9:00 AM-Noon – Food Pantry
- Sat., May 13th-9am-12pm –Burdell Twp. Trash Day
- Sun., May 14th – Mother’s Day
- Mon., May 15^h at 6:30 PM – Council Meeting
- Tues., May 16th at 10:30 AM – WELCA Meeting at Green Acres
- Mon., May 22th at 9:00 AM-Noon – Food Pantry
- Thurs., May 25th - Deadline for June MESSENGER
- Sun., May 28th - Pentecost
- Mon., May 29th – Memorial Day



Happy Birthday!

Zack Jones – May 3
Mark Hammar – May 5
Chelsea Nelson – May 7
Andrea Seavey – May 9
Anne Baker – May 10
Cortney Robertson – May 11
Devere Byers – May 12
Kim Mitchell-Cool – May 28
Bonnie Smith – May 28
Kathleen Tuttle – May 30
Julie Seguin – May 30



Happy Anniversary

Kurt and Heather Hammar – May 20

*Oh! fragrant is the breath of May
In tranquil garden closes,
And soft yet regal is her sway
Among the springtide roses.*

—William Hamilton Hayne,
American poet (1856–1929)

“May” is likely named after the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. Alternatively, the name might have come from the Latin *maiores*, “elders”.

Final exams

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women’s Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, “Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you’re so old and it doesn’t matter?” Little Bess Eriksson looked up and said confidently, “I’m cramming for my finals.”



—Florence Littauer, *Women’s Devotional Bible*





Our **May 16** WELCA meeting will be held at Green Acres in Cadillac to allow our Augustana ladies residing at Green Acres to attend the meeting. All women from Augustana are WELCA members and are encouraged to attend this special meeting.

Car pooling will be available leaving the church at 9:30 a.m. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile visit to Green Acres to spend some time with the special people who reside there.

Our much anticipated and annual "Christmas in July" luncheon will take place on **Wednesday, July 19** and will be held at Cast Iron Kitchen in Cadillac at noon. A sign up sheet will be available in June so save the date and plan to attend. As in the past, all women from Augustana and their guests are invited. We always have a great time and remember to bring a \$5.00 gift to



Meet Your Secretary

A Tustin native, Angela Christie, née Holmes, graduated from Pine River High School in 2001 and received her Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Ferris State University in 2005. She married Duane Christie in 2006 and they were stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas until 2009 when they moved back to Michigan. She has three kids; Neil aged 14, Henry aged 10, and Leslie aged 6, whom she homeschools. They currently live south of Cadillac near Hobart in an old farmhouse with five cats, a dog, and 21 chickens. Angela comes with ten years of church secretarial experience and has been a member of Reed City GFWC since 2010. In her free time, she enjoys writing, reselling on Poshmark, and all things artsy and crafty.

Pentecost petals

The Pantheon, dedicated in 126 A.D. as the home of ancient Roman gods, is now a Catholic basilica. In a tradition dating back to the seventh century, on Pentecost Sunday thousands of rose petals are dropped through the roof's opening onto worshipers below. The red petals symbolize the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus' disciples, as well as the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

To accomplish this "rose rain," five firefighters climb to the roof after mass. While the choir sings the ancient hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* ("Come Creator Spirit"), firefighters empty seven bags of petals through the building's 27-foot-wide oculus, or eye in the sky.

Only a fortunate few can witness this spectacular event in person each year, but videos are available online.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Burdell Township Trash Disposal Day Please No Loose Trash

Loose Trash, Must Be Bagged or
Boxed

Saturday, May 13, 2023
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



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

Archery Demonstration

May 20, Saturday, at 2:00 pm

Recurve archers and coaches, competing on the national level, Anette Skoog and Matthew Garcia, will be at Dewings Center with an Archery Demonstration.

Come out and find the joy of the great sport of archery!

RESERVATION needed to participate in the demonstration. No reservation needed to only attend and watch.

Email contact@dewingscenter.org, or message us on Facebook, to reserve your spot to participate!

Free Admission | \$5 Suggested Minimum Donation

Finding meaning in surrender


Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld, the second secretary-general of the United Nations, was known for his Christian faith and his efforts as a peacemaker. He received the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously after dying in a plane crash in Africa en route to negotiate a cease-fire.

In *Markings*, his published diary, Hammarskjöld wrote not of his illustrious career but of his conversations with God. He expressed concern about finding meaning in life and living a life filled with meaning. On Pentecost in 1961 (just months before he died), Hammarskjöld wrote: "But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone — or Something — and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal."



The History of Mother's Day

- A day to honor mothers has existed for as long as, well, there have been mothers. Festivals honoring mothers in ancient times were often tied to gods and goddesses and maternal symbols of fertility, birth, creativity, and cycles of growth. The mother is the protector and nourisher of children and, by extension, of all humanity. The Phrygians held a festival for Cybele, the Great Mother of the Gods. The Greeks and Romans also honored the mother figure of their gods. Even today, an important festival in India, Durga-puja, honors the goddess Durga.
- During the Middle Ages, people would return to their home or “mother” church once a year during the middle of Lent. (Back then, children would often leave to work at the tender age of 10!) Historians theorize that it was the return to the “mother” church that led to the tradition of children getting the day off to visit their mother and family.
- In 16th-century England, this celebration became “Mothering Sunday.” Children—mainly daughters who had gone to work as domestic servants—would be given the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to return to their mothers and home parish. The eldest son or daughter would bring a “mothering cake,” which would be cut and shared by the entire family. Family reunions were the order of the day, with sons and daughters assuming all household duties and preparing a special dinner in honor of their mother. Sometime during the day, the mother would attend special church services with her family.
- Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday; the fasting rules were relaxed for that day. (Often, the gospel for the day was about Jesus feeding the crowd with loaves of bread.) The traditional cake, called a Simnel cake, is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste. The cake was made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top, representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.
- In the United States, three women were most instrumental in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day: Ann Reeves Jarvis, Julia Ward Howe, and Ann's daughter, Anna M. Jarvis. Learn more about these three great women who fought for children's welfare, health, and peace.



Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

Proverbs 31:28-29

Stewards of Our Elders' Wisdom

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” –Exodus 20:12

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, God’s people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect and value as “elders” their oldest members. It’s something we surely can use in 21st century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS*: Peggy Burns; Sandie Leach; Tom H; Carlton Plyler; Andrea Foster; Julie Bierema; Pamela McCalla; Janice Peterson; Tom R.; Skip Cornett; Leta Hoaglund; Layne Davis, Kyler Ruppert and family; Katie Bigelow; Scott Thompson; Family of Clark Perry; Jeff N.; Scott Martinson; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.





May 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Food Pantry 9-12pm	2 Quilting Club every Tuesday 12pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Burdell Trash Day 9-12pm
14 Mother's Day	15 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meet- ing 6:30pm	16 WELCA Meeting 10:30am at Green Acres	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 June Newsletter Due	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			