

November 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



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

I've begun to wonder where summer 2024 has gone and how could it already be November. In November, my thoughts turn to Thanksgiving. Like many of you, I have fond memories of family gatherings. In my family we feasted on all the traditional favorites: turkey, stuffing, candid yams, cranberry sauce, etc. After eating we spent time visiting or enjoying food coma induced naps, waiting until our stomachs to recover enough for us to enjoy a variety of delicious pies lovingly made my by grandmother. She always made sure to include everyone's personal favorites.

In grade school I learned about the first Thanksgiving where Indians and Pilgrims enjoyed a meal together. My first grade class got to play Indian and wear headbands with a feather. However, I was envious of the other class because they got to dress as pilgrims. Also disappointing was the fact that the special ingredients we brought to share were turned into ordinary vegetable soup. Later in life I learned that the story of the first Thanksgiving was an idealized version of the complicated relationship between Indigenous People and early settlers.

Recently I learned that it was increased level of prosperity that allowed everyday people to enjoy sharing a holiday feast with each other. For many years most of those who lived in our country didn't have enough food, chairs, silverware, dishes etc. to invite others for a meal. Only after reaching a certain degree of economic security could they begin this type of celebration. This helped me to realize how very fortunate most of us are and how easy it is to take everyday items like extra chairs or silverware for granted. It also reminded me of the importance of remember to always be thankful, which isn't always easy to do in our consumer driven country.

And so I'm going to suggest that this November, those who are interested, might try writing a **Thanksgiving List**. Not your traditional “to do list” Not a list of things to do to get ready for Thanksgiving Not a list of naughty or nice, like Santa. Not a list of steps to improve your diet. But a list of things that you own, but too often take for granted. Make a list of how many pairs of shoes you own and remember the people who have no shoes. Count how many dishes you have in cabinets and wonder how those without manage. Count the socks in you drawers and think about refugees who've had to leave everything they own behind. I hope this will help all of us to become more thankful; to remember to thank God for all the blessings God has given to us.

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
September 16, 2024



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

Devotional read by Ken Forsberg

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

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

Minutes: Motion by Connie to approve the minutes from the August 2024 meeting, with support from Jim. Carried.

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

No communications.

Building/Grounds Report – None

Old Business:

Carpet cleaning bids. Julie will get a quote(s) asap.

Renucci date. Ted & Mary Raven and Ken Forsberg & Connie Burgess will be going on October 10.

Flu shots – October 27.

Uplift donation discussion. Possibly have a special collection or two before Thanksgiving. A special food drive will be done – oatmeal.

Wedding guidelines. A work in progress.

New Business:

Poinsettia orders – Heather will order them. \$6.00 each by November 11.

AT&T problems were solved by Angela and her husband. We're very thankful to have them!

Funeral protocol was updated 6/2023. The compensations and mileage for pastor and musician will be the same as the wedding guidelines.

Universal church directory. Options were discussed. The photo directories are nice, but costly, so at this time it was decided to stay with the printed one we've had for the past few years.

Road clean up will be October 9 at 5pm.

Second scrip order will be done by Becky – due October 27.

Tiger bus trip next year? Julie will check into this.

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

The next meeting will be held October 21, 2024 at 6:30 – devotions by Julie.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

## Thanksgiving's path to contentment

*“Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.” –Hebrews 13:5*

What would it take to make you happy? Really. In our culture, advertisements sell us on the idea that true happiness is always just one more purchase away. When we believe this, we put ourselves on the hamster wheel of want. No matter how hard we run, we will never get to happiness.

More often than happiness, the Bible speaks of contentment. The two concepts are often confused, but the distinction is important. Whereas happiness is a pleasurable sensation that rises and falls like the tide, contentment is a state of satisfaction that remains calm, like the surface of a pond.

God calls us to live contentedly, finding sufficiency in our lives, our relationships, and all we possess. We are enough. We have enough. When our essential needs are met, incessant wants do not infest our soul like itchy fleas.

How do we find contentment? Thankfulness provides a way. We give thanks for all we are and all we have, appreciating every blessing. Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, make a pledge to yourself this November to find contentment through giving thanks. Make a “Gratitude List” of everything for which you are thankful. Review it daily, praying over each blessing, “I thank God for ....” Add to it as you think of new things.

May you finish November as someone who is not only thankful, but also content with all you are and all you have.

*--Rob Blezard  
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## The mess of mercy

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. "How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?" he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. "Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this," he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter.

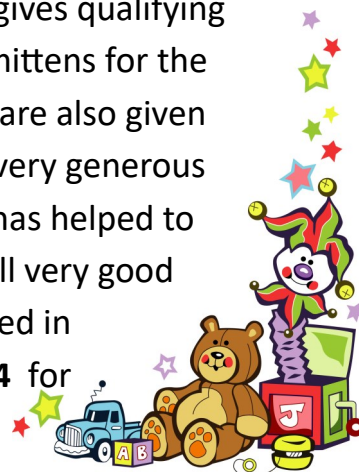
"Mercy is always a messy business," writes pastor Daniel Emery Price at 1517.org. That's true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared moneychangers out of the temple. "There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess," notes Price. "Reformation is always about clearing the path to God's radical grace."

## UPLIFT PINE RIVER AREA KIDS

Uplift continues to struggle in obtaining some foods. The oatmeal situation has resolved itself and Covenant is collecting cereal. Therefore Augustana's food drive will focus on small packages of snacks. An example would be granola bars, small packages of cookies, chips, or fruit snacks. Any small sized snack would be welcome. Jim and Sue Carmody are heading up the drive and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. As usual they will shop for you if you would like them to. The drive will end **November 3rd**.

## Gifts for Kids

As mentioned in the October Messenger, we aren't asking for games for the Gifts for Kids event. Gifts for Kids is an annual event in Osceola County that gives qualifying parents an opportunity to choose gifts for their children, hats and mittens for the kids, and receive household items right before Christmas. Families are also given food vouchers to local stores. Augustana friends have always been very generous with their donation of games and a grant received a few years ago has helped to purchase the games needed for this year. Our game inventory is still very good also. If you would like to check out the inventory, all games are stored in the church basement. The event will be on **Saturday, December 14** for registered Osceola families.



## November 2024 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
<b>November 3</b>	Becky Miller		George & Sue Klingler		Mary Raven	George Klingler	Jeanette Otberg
<b>November 10</b>	Julie Seguin		Ruth Hammar	Ted & Mary Raven	Joan Swanson	Julie Seguin & Ruth Hammar	Becky Miller
<b>November 17</b>				Jan Marckwardt	Harvey Miller		
<b>November 24</b>	Julie Seguin			Ted & Mary Raven	Ken Forsberg	Julie Seguin	

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2024
- Daylight saving time ends, November 3, 2024
- Food Pantry, November 4, 2024 9-12pm
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2024
- Food Pantry, November 18, 2024 9-12pm
- Council Meeting, November 18, 2024 6:30pm
- WELCA, November 19, 2024 10:30am
- Christ the King Sunday, November 24, 2024
- Deadline for December Messenger, November 26, 2024
- Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

### 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

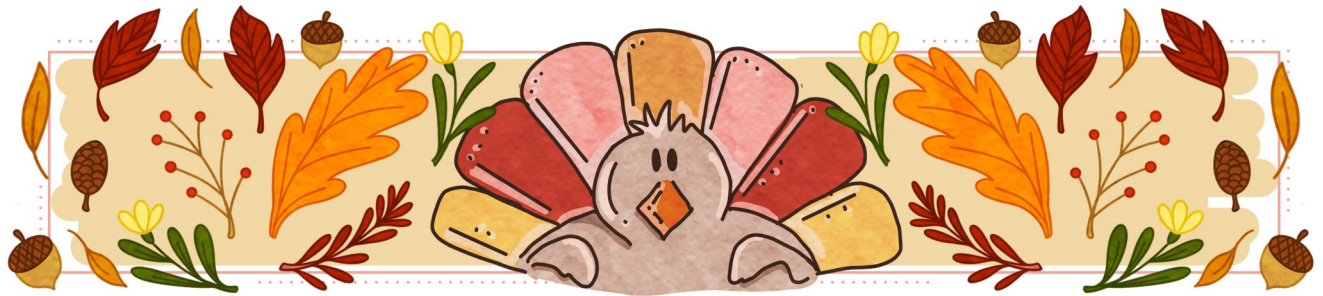


I'm sharing a huge thank you with all of the wonderful people at Augustana Lutheran Church. During pastor appreciation month, you truly succeeded in making me feel well and truly appreciated. Thank you for all the cards and the beautiful cake. I feel honored to be your pastor.  
Blessings, Pastor Sharon.

Pastor Sharon (left) was honored October 13th during Pastor Appreciation Day.





# PRAYER list...

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



# November 2024

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 			1	2 
<b>3</b> All Saints Sunday Clocks Fall Back	<b>4</b> Food Pantry 9-12pm	<b>5</b>  Election Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Poinsettias Due	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	<b>19</b> WELCA 10:30am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Newsletter Due	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>