

**AUGUSTANA  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**Special points  
of interest:**

- Pentecost
- Food Pantry  
Sunday
- Can you help?  
Assisting  
Minister Sign-up
- Upcoming  
Dates to  
Remember
- Mother's Day

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# The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2026

## Pastor's Page



*"... And in your descendants all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Acts 3:25b)*

Establishing boundaries is an integral part of human nature. We use boundaries to establish property rights; such as our homes and our countries. Boundaries frequently define who we are as people; our na-

tionality, professions, and families are all defined by boundaries. Sometimes we even use boundaries to express our loyalties; our political affiliations, sports teams enthusiasms, even our church membership. While these boundaries are useful in helping us in establishing our identities, they all too frequently become barriers.

As Christians we all claim to be followers of Jesus, but too often rigid boundaries separate us. As a woman,

when I introduce myself as a Lutheran pastor, I often find myself having to identify which "brand" of Lutheranism I represent. Personally, I find this need to identify myself as an ELCA Lutheran pastor annoying. When we first moved to Manistee, one of my new neighbors welcomed us with a card and homemade cupcakes. She also gave me several invitations including one to her Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, which I think ended

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## Called Friends by Christ

According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15-16,

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13-14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."



# Council Notes

## AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Approved Minutes

March 8, 2026

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

Devotional read by Brian

Members: Mike Barnes, Brian Hammar, Heather Hammar, Kurt Hammar, Becky Miller, and Julie Seguin.

Guests: Terry Marckwardt, Treasurer.

Agenda: Motion by Heather, to approve the agenda, with support from Brian. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by Heather to approve the February 8, 2026 minutes, with support from Kurt. Carried.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Reports: Heather made a motion to approve the Treasurer and Secretary reports, with Julie supporting the motion. Approved.

Building/Grounds Report: No issues at this time.

Old Business:

Palm Sunday – March 29 – palms are ordered from Patterson’s Flowers

Easter – April 5, there will be lilies for the altar and there will be coffee hour?

New Business:

Pastors Sharon and Phil will be gone May 3. Jim Carmody will lead the service that day.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am with the Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19 at 10:15 after church, with Kurt reading the devotional.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Becky at 8:15 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and decide about cleaning up and removing trees at the church and the parsonage. The meeting was held via text and phone.

Members: Mike Barnes, Jim Carmody, Brian Hammar, Heather Hammar, Kurt Hammar, Becky Miller, and Julie Seguin.

During the recent ice storm, damage was done to the pine trees in the yard. While getting the quote to have them taken down, other concerns were raised and a quote for additional tree removal was given.

Mike Barnes made a motion to approve the quote from River's Edge Tree Service of \$2,000 for the removal of the two pine trees between the church and the parsonage. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A separate motion by Mike Barnes to approve the quote from River's Edge Tree Service of \$1,000 to remove the cherry tree south of the parking area, to trim the maple tree north of the parsonage and the maple tree to the east of the parsonage. Julie Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Seguin

WELCA Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
November 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Joan Chave`.

**Those present:** Joan Chave`, Jan Marckwardt, Sue Carmody, Barb Hazlett, Jeanette Otberg, Sue Klingler, Connie Burgess and Joan Swanson.

**The Devotion** was read by Barb Hazlett titled "Things Above".

**The Purpose Statement** was read by Joan Swanson.

**The Minutes** from October 21, 2025 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved by a motion from Connie Burgess and second by Barb Hazlett.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report for October 31, 2025 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was approved by a motion from Sue Klingler with support by Joan Chave`. The balance as of October 31, 2025 is \$697.66.

**President's Report:** Joan Chave` reported that the Raise Right program has netted \$335 for badly needed quilting supplies.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The retirement celebration for Sandy Leach went very well. Quilts were also blessed that Sunday. HeadStart gift cards have been purchased and will be given to the HeadStart program closer to Christmas.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A soup drive has been established for Uplift headed by Jim and Sue Carmody. The drive begins Thanksgiving and continues through Christmas. Chicken Noodle and Vegetable soups are being requested. The ladies put their heads together to come up with a way to help the food pantry with their supply of food. It was decided that Food Pantry Sunday would be reinstated beginning in December. This will be the fourth Sunday of the month and a specific food will be asked for each month. Jan Marckwardt will head this and keep the congregation informed as to what food is needed each month.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting will be on January 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:05 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jan Marckwardt

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up making us both uncomfortable. These kinds of denominational boundaries are often quite confusing for people without a church background. I believe they end up wondering how so many people who claim to love the same Jesus can have so many differences.

I often find myself asking similar questions about the rigid boundaries established by the majority of Christian Churches. I was once criticized by another Lutheran pastor for not being a “Cradle” Lutheran. Apparently, she believed being born and raised as a Lutheran made one somehow better than others having a more diverse background.

I recently came across this quote from the Rev. Derek White. *The Baptists taught me to love the Jesus I encountered in the Gospels. The Pentecostals taught me to listen for the Spirit, even when that voice is wild and unpredictable. And the United Methodists taught me how to hold it all together in grace, to trust that God meets us at the Table, wherever that Table might be.* He reminded me that God loves all of us. That we are all members of God's family. I pray that someday we learn how to all come together at God's table.

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

## WELCA NEWS

Winter and unexpected absences have made it tough for the WELCA ladies to meet the last couple of months. We are happy to say that on April 21 some of us were able to get together and catch up on things and even make future plans.

One important item that WELCA initiated was the re-establishing of Food Pantry Sunday every fourth Sunday of the month. Suggested food items are given each month in the Messenger and the Sunday bulletin. This has been very successful and WELCA is thankful for the participation of the Augustana congregation. LeRoy Methodist church has also joined with us in collecting food for the pantry. It is always a blessing when the community comes together for an important cause.

A report from the HeadStart teacher thanking WELCA for the gift cards we gave them in December was very rewarding. They purchased items needed for the classrooms that will help the children to learn.

There is a signup sheet for salads and desserts needed for the Benkert funeral luncheon to be held on May 16. Help will also be needed for set-up and kitchen help during the luncheon.

The Father's Day brunch menu has been set. If you can help with a breakfast casserole, please let Jan or Sue Klingler know.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 19 at 10:30**. Also, our June 16th meeting will be held at Green Acres. We hope to see you then!



Celebrating all the April birthdays!



### UPLIFT

As the school year winds down, so does Uplift. Our last day to pack will be Thursday, May 28. Uplift is very grateful to Augustana for allowing us to share space with the Food Pantry. Uplift volunteers are the best and to show our appreciation we ask Food Pantry and Uplift volunteers to join us on the 28<sup>th</sup> after packing for light refreshments and coffee in Augustana’s Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to seeing all of you again next school year. We will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year of providing weekend food to Pine River Area students. Our first day to pack will be Thursday, September 17, 2026. We need a few more volunteers especially to deliver the totes to the schools. If you know someone who might be interested, ask them to contact an Uplift board member. Our greatest need is from December to March .

### UPLIFT AND FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate all of you!

Join us for coffee and light refreshments on

**Thursday, May 28 at 10:00am**

Come on up to Augustana’s Fellowship Hall



### Church Mission Statement

*“We are called through Jesus the Christ to nurture spiritual growth, welcome all into worship and serve the needs of others.”*

### Northwest Osceola Food Pantry

Each month for our Fourth Sunday Food Pantry collection a different item will be collected. For the month of April the item was shampoo and Augustana’s response was wonderful. For the month of **May** we will be collecting **15.25 ounce cans of fruit**. All fruits will be appreciated. As usual if you are unable to shop, shopping can be done for you. Please talk with Jan if you need shopping help. Did you know that LeRoy Methodist is also collecting food for the pantry? They are following our lead with what is needed and delivering the items directly to the pantry. It is a good feeling when the community comes together for such an important mission!

#### Everyday Wisdom for the Journey

A real friend is one who walks in, when the rest of the world walks out.

—Walter Winchell

The secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered that I was not God.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Doing the tough things today prepares us for the big things tomorrow.

—Zig Ziglar

Don’t keep God in a box; include him at the table.

—Focus on the Family

#### The Taste of Our Words

I try to watch the words I say,  
And keep them soft and sweet;  
For I don't know from day to day,  
Which ones I'll have to eat.



# CHURCH



# COUNCIL

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Becky Miller	231-920-7883	beckymiller81@live.com
Vice-President	Heather Hammar	231-629-2359	heather.hammar@gmail.com
Secretary	Julie Seguin	231-878-3119	jkseguin@gmail.com
Treasurer	Terry Marckwardt	231-872-0149	etmarck@sbcglobal.net
Members:	Michael Barnes	231-884-7128	birdhunterup@gmail.com
	Jim Carmody	231-288-0731	sjcarmody85@yahoo.com
	Brian Hammar	231-920-4087	bhammar@att.net
	Kurt Hammar	231-578-1153	heatherhamar1@gmail.com

## May 2026 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/ Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
May 3	Becky Miller	X	X	Mike & Doreen Barnes	Heather Hammar	Doreen Barnes	Sue Carmody
May 10 Mother's Day	Becky Miller & Doreen Barnes		George & Sue Klingler	Doug & Becky Miller	Connie Burgess	Becky Miller & Doreen Barnes	Brunch
May 17	Julie Seguin	Becky Miller	Becky Miller	Connie Burgess & Ken Forsberg	Ken Forsberg	Ruth Hammar & Becky Miller	Connie Burgess & Ken Forsberg
May 24 Pentecost	Becky Miller						
May 31 Food Pantry Sunday							



Prayer  
LIST

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Pastor Zack Nelson; Reketa; CJ; Jerry; Carol N.; Sandie Leach; Amy Brown; Anna; Carol G.; Bob T.; Pat O; Amanda; Jeanette Otberg; Kathy Tuttle; Lexi; Jaydon; Carlton; Ron & Candy Karr; Anissa; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- *Adopt-A-Road Clean-up, May 3, 2026 10am*
- *Food Pantry, May 4, 2026 9-11am*
- *National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2026*
- *Mother's Day, May 10, 2026*
- *Ascension of the Lord, May 14, 2026*
- *Food Pantry, May 16, 2026 9-11am*
- *WELCA Meeting, May 19, 2026 10:30am*
- *Day of Pentecost, May 24, 2026*
- *Memorial Day, May 25, 2026 office closed*
- *Deadline for June Messenger, May 26, 2026*
- *Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026*



### **Yes, I can!**

I cannot end poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot stop war, but I can offer peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of someone who is dying.

These may seem like small acts, yet they are far harder—and far more meaningful—than any grand plan for social change. Christ reminds us of their worth: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, NIV).



### **Pentecost Sunday**

On May 24th we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Remember to wear red that day and forgo your geraniums. Because of the early date, the church will provide them this year.

### **Happy Anniversary**

Kurt and Heather Hammar – May 20

### **Happy Birthday!**

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

### **Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday

9am - 1pm

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[www.augustanatustin.com](http://www.augustanatustin.com)





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 Pastor: 740-296-9176

*Please kindly deliver to:*



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Road Clean-up 10am	4 Food Pantry 9-11am	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 Benkert Funeral 10am
17	18 Food Pantry 9-11am	19 WELCA 10:30am	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost	25 Memorial Day	26	27 Newsletter Due	28	29	30
31						