



## 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:



*"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



*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)*

I think most of us would agree the words we chose to use are important, especially when speaking about God's word. I think we would also agree that almost every profession has its own jargon; words that have a special meaning in

a specific context.

Although we don't usually call it “jargon,” churches also have their own specialized words. For those raised with a church background they appear so familiar that we often fail to recognize that they can quickly become confusing to those without this background. As Lutherans we use what's known as a “liturgical” style of worship. Many of understand that it means “work of the people,” serving as a reminder that worship is participatory, not a spectator activity. Other commonly used church words include: communion, sanctified, baptism, confirmation, absolution, etc.

In general I find these words helpful; however, there is one word frequently used in church circles that I find truly objectionable: **unchurched**. It's a term that can be found in variety of evangelical plans to grow church membership; for example “How to engage the unchurched.” To me this carries a message proclaiming that those who belonging to a church are somehow better, more worthy than those who don't. Just take a minute to think about all the negatives that follow the use of “un”: unclean, unhealthy, uneducated, unhappy, unworthy, etc. To me using the term unchurched implies that people who don't belong to a church are outsiders, orphans. Maybe even undeserving.

I prefer to think of those who don't belong to a church as those without a church home. And to always look at them through loving, grace-filled eyes, because, unless they feel comfortable enough to share with us, we have no idea why they chose not to belong to a church. They may have been forced to attend when children and see no further need of church in their lives; perhaps they're completely unfamiliar with going to church, maybe they're so busy trying to provide for their families that they legitimately don't have time or energy, and to me most troubling of all, they may have been harmed by church that rejected them or abused by church members themselves.

Jesus came to share God's love with everyone and we are called to do the same. My hope is that as members of Augustana Lutheran Church we are just as eager to share this love with those outside of our walls as those within them.

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Sharon*

# AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## APPROVED MINUTES

April 15, 2024



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

Devotional read by Becky – Worshipful Heart by Max Lucado.

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

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

Minutes: Motion by George to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting, with support from Heather. Carried.

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

No communications.

Building/Grounds Report – Ted will check to see if thatching is needed for lawn. Ted, Jim, and Ken Goddard will coordinate to get the mowing done this year.

Old Business:

- A. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee met April 7. Pastor Sharon and the Bishop will plan the service together. Next meeting will be April 28. Quilt squares are progressing, tree has been purchased, menu is coming together, and invitations will be mailed in May.
- B. Renucci House meal will be prepared and served on Thursday, April 25.
- C. Work date scheduled for May 4 at 9am and/or June 1. Windows will be scheduled to be washed after power washing is done.
- D. Painting update. Marty's Painting Service was scheduled to begin June 3, but may be able to begin painting in May. Agreeable Gray in eggshell finish. Marty can get that for \$39/gal.
- E. Safety Team from Pine River Schools. Nothing new to report from Mark Dennis.
- F. Shoe Ministry – Noisy offering totaled over \$200 on April 14. Final amount will be counted and given to Pam Sibary to be directed for the shoe ministry.

New Business:

- A. Road cleanup will be April 28 after church – with May 5 as a backup date.
- B. Peggy will be doing the church service on May 5. Pastor Sharon will be gone June 9.
- C. Patty will be gone April 21 & 28. The music will be played through Media Shout & the new sound system. Liturgy will be read.
- D. The Plexiglas has been placed on top of the altar by the Marckwardts. Thank you!
- E. May 19 – Augustana will honor 2024 Graduate Ava Hammar.
- F. May 19 – Church will be decorated with red geraniums brought by congregation members and the plants will be planted that week. There is a sign-up sheet for members to have a geranium in memory or honor of someone.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Seguin

# WELCA Meeting

## Approved Minutes

April 16, 2024



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

**Those present:** Barb Hazlett, Jan Marckwardt, Joan Chave`, Sue Klingler, Bonnie Smith, Shelby Plyler and Myrna Griep.

Guests: Carlton Plyler and Shelby's friend, Carol.

Shelby Plyler offered a prayer and Jeanette Otberg read a **devotional** titled "God Knows".

**Correspondence:** Thank you from New Hope Center for our Easter donation of \$50.

**The Minutes** from the March 19, 2024 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved with a motion by Barb Hazlett and second by Joan Chave`.

**The Treasurer's Report** from March 2024 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was approved with a motion from Sue Klingler and second by Shelby Plyler. The balance in the account as of March 31, 2024 is \$369.34.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The question was raised whether or not to continue with the Headstart Project. Enrollment is higher which means WELCA needs more money to purchase supplies for the students. All in the group agreed to continue the project. WELCA will seek ways to secure funds for the project. It was also suggested that we contact the Headstart teacher to find out where the greatest need is for the students.

The cereal drive netted 273 boxes for Uplift.

Barb Hazlett suggested that anyone going to the Spring Gathering car pool as traffic in Traverse City is heavy.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Barb Hazlett reported that it is necessary to make middle schoolers aware of the problem,

A date was picked for WELCA's Christmas in July. It will be held on July 23 at noon. The venue is to be determined.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting will be May 21, 2024. There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jan Marckwardt



## WELCA NEWS

Augustana's WELCA meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

Coming up in July we will have our favorite event "Christmas in July" which will be held on **July 23 at Burke's in Cadillac at noon**. All women of Augustana along with their moms, sisters, friends and neighbors are welcome to attend. Remember to bring a \$5 gift to exchange.

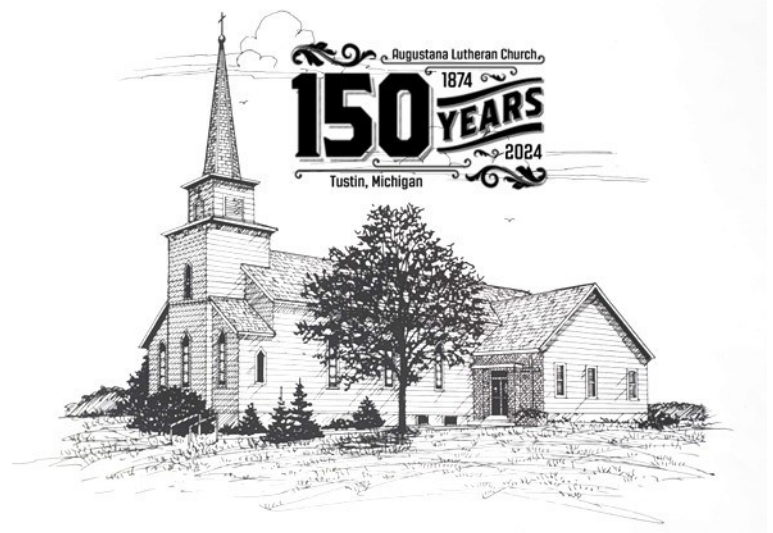
We are planning to hold our **August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at Green Acres**. Plan to attend with us. Car pooling will be available.

At our last meeting it was decided to continue to support the Pine River HeadStart program. Come to our next meeting on **June 18** to find out more about this project.

## AUGUSTANA'S 150<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION

Your 150<sup>th</sup> planning committee has been hard at work. We are only weeks away from celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday July 14. We will begin our celebration with our Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. with the bishop and special guests in attendance. Following the service which will include the resurrected bell choir, we will take a short break and then beginning around 11:00 continue the festivities with testimonials, tree and quilt dedications, and recognition by state and local officials. The event will be topped off with a Swedish luncheon at noon.

To make this celebration a success we need everyone's help. On Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 we will begin preparing food for the luncheon and setting up for Sunday. On Sunday, July 14 we continue to set up, serve our lunch and then clean up. Please plan to help out on either day. There are signup sheets available or talk with any committee member and find out where you can help. Committee members include Becky Miller, Ted and Mary Raven, Ken Forsberg, Connie Burgess, Jan Marckwardt and Joan Chave`. If you would like to join the committee members and find out more, there are two meetings planned after Sunday services on June 16 and June 30.





## Uplift Pine River Area Kids

Uplift Pine River Area Schools would like once again to thank the volunteers from Augustana. We have a faithful and dedicated group of people from our church. The program is taking a summer recess, but will start up again in September. We hope to see all of you back in September. Did you see your name on the outdoor sign? The program could not be successful without all of you.



Renucci Hospitality House was visited on April 25, 2024. We served pulled pork, chicken, Mac n cheese, beans, Cole slaw and several kinds of cookies. We fed 40 very appreciative people. Thanks to all who helped and brought cookies to share.



## Our Church's Graduates

On May 19th we honored Ava Hammar who graduated with the class of 2024 from Reed City High School. Congratulations!



## Praise for God's handiwork

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!  
The heavens declare your glory,  
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.  
In your love you have given us the power  
to behold the beauty of your world  
robed in all its splendor.  
The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,  
the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might;  
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air  
bespeak your wondrous will.  
In your goodness you have made us able to hear  
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones  
reveal to us that you are in our midst.  
A divine voice sings through all creation.

—from *Earth Prayers*

Chris Ervin, daughter of the late Yarda (Anderson) Ervin of Tustin, kindly donated 60 cupcakes in memory of her mother for Mother's Day service May 12, 2024. We had just enough leftover to share with our friends at Green Acres.



## While you're away

Taking regular vacations is key to our well-being. It's important to spend time with loved ones, experience physical and mental refreshment, enjoy changes in scenery and routine, and prepare for future productivity.

Just remember: God's work goes on all summer long. When you're on vacation, your friends at church miss you. No one else can fill your unique role in the congregation. Your presence and gifts help the church thrive. So please give your regular offerings before you leave for vacation. And if you have the opportunity, try to attend church while you're away. Have a wonderful summer!

**PRAYER**  
list...

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jeanette Otberg, Rob Feeley; Pat Gustad; Fay Bartrand; Dorothy Birdsall, The Goddards, Jayne Siglin; Janice Peterson; Anissa; Carlton Plyler; Vicky Grandi; Jack Forsberg; Mary R; Katy Draper; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

# June 2024 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
June 2		Sue Carmody	George & Sue Klingler		Jim Carmody	George Klingler	Sue Klingler & Joan Chavé
June 9		X	X	Ted & Mary Raven	Ted & Mary Raven		
June 16	Becky Miller		Ted & Mary Raven	Doug & Becky Miller			Father's day X
June 23							
June 30				Ted & Mary Raven			



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Food Pantry, *June 3, 2024 9-12pm*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2024*
- Father's Day, *June 16, 2024*
- Council Meeting, *June 17, 2024 6:30pm*
- Food Pantry, *June 17, 2024 9-12pm*
- WELCA Meeting, *June 18, 2024 10:30am*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2024*
- First day of summer, *June 20, 2024*
- Deadline for July Messenger, *June 26, 2024*



### **Happy Birthday!**

Brian Hammar 6/1  
Marian Byers 6/3  
Doug Miller 6/7  
Ruth Swanson 6/7  
Patty Surguy 6/12  
Michael Barnes 6/17



### **Happy Anniversary**

Douglas & Marian Byers 6/20  
Kenneth & Sandra Goddard 6/20



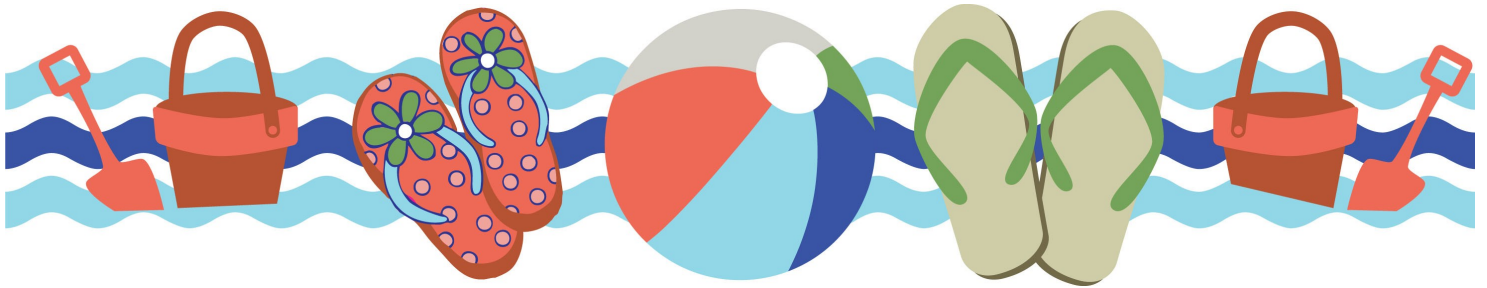
All announcements or changes to the prayer list must be communicated to the office by **Wednesday before 1pm** for it to be featured in the coming Sunday's bulletin. After 1pm; an email, text, or phone message is appreciated and absolutely ok. Thursday morning is usually too late.

## **What forgiveness is — and is not**


Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start and a new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the canceling of a debt.

—Martin Luther King Jr.





# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm 	Bell Choir every Wednesday 6pm 			1 
2	3 Food Pantry 9-12pm 	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16 Father's Day 	17 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Mtg 6:30pm	18 WELCA 10:30am	19 	20 	21	22
23	24	25	26 Newsletter Due	27	28	29
30						