AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 7 October2026

Special points of interest:

- Gifts for Kids
- Can you help? Assisting Minister Sign-up
- Upcoming Dates to Remember
- WELCA Change
- Outerwear Drive

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Pastor's Page



"First, I thank God for all of you . . . (Romans 1:8)

Recently, I saw a pamphlet entitled "Church Etiquette." It looked like it had been written quite a while ago, perhaps the 1950s. I was curious about what it might say regarding the correct ways people should behave when attending church. I was interested in learning what suggestions it had to share about desired behavior in church. As I looked it over, I also wondered about how its suggestions might be viewed for those without a background of church attendance.

From the very beginning, what I had hoped to be useful suggestions sounded more like strict and rigid rules about how people should act in church. The first thing it listed was to attend church regularly (no exceptions) and to make certain the entire family goes together. It also demanded enthusiastic participation in the service; arriving early (not just on time), and not rushing to leave after the service. It also contained advice about helping people who appear to be having trouble with the service book – even offering to share yours with them. As a newcomer to Lutheran worship, it was initially challenging for me to follow the liturgy, but I would have felt very uncomfortable if a stranger had offered to share their book with me.

After reading it, I sincerely hope that this kind of messaging isn't commonly used today. I pray that we've learned how to welcome newcomers without shaming them. But I found one suggestion very disturbing. It began "Always sit near the front" (which I personally think is great), but gave the following as reasons. "Leave the back pews for the late commers, the BACKSLIDERS, and MOTHERS WITH SMALL CHILDREN." Personally, I find the term "backsliders"

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A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:



"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

July 12, 2026

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

Devotional read by Becky – Good Habits

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

Agenda: Motion by Jim, to approve the agenda, with support from Julie. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by Heather to approve June 14, 2026, minutes, with support from Jim. Carried.

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

Building/Grounds Report: Chris Ervin has asked to use the parish hall on 8/15/2026 at noon for a family gathering.

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Old Business:

- Terry presented the financial information from 2025/2026, and the council worked to prepare a proposed budget for 2026/2027. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Becky to present the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on August 16, 2026, for Augustana's congregation's approval.
- Annual reviews were done for Patty, Angela, and Nicole. Pay increases were discussed and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- Council member vacancy was discussed.
- Pastor Sharon will be gone on July 26.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am with the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10:15 after church, with Jim reading the devotional.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Seguin



WELCA Meeting
Approved Minutes
June 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by President Joan Chave`.

Those present: Jan Marckwardt, Barb Hazlett, Shelby Plyler, Sandra Bottorff, Ruth Hammer and Connie Burgess.

The Devotion was read by Joan Chave` from "Christ in Our Home" and titled "Faith Companion".

The Minutes from May 19, 2026 prepared by Jan Marckwardt were approved by a motion from Barb Hazlett with a second by Ruth Hammar.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report prepared by Jan Marckwardt for May 31, 2026 was approved. The balance in the account as of May 31, 2026 was $1,032.66. This balance includes a $250 donation for WELCA's HeadStart project.

President's Report: Joan mentioned that she is pleased with the success of the monthly collection of food for the food pantry. She also mentioned how nice it is that LeRoy Methodist is also contributing food each month. Joan explained that Lutheran World Relief was formed at the end of WWII as a disaster relief program. She is looking into how this program could work as a church-wide project. It is possible that Thrivent members could use their grants for this program.

Old Business:
Father's Day menu is set: casseroles, fruit, juice, biscuits and gravy.
Christmas in July is set for July 21 at Big Boy in Cadillac. It was suggested that those participating in the Right/Left game put their name on their gift so that they could be thanked by the recipient.

New Business:
Barb Hazlett reported that the Fall Gathering will be on September 26 at Evergreen.
She also reported to the group that there is an October awareness event for Human Trafficking.

Several members mentioned that we should have another Bold Women's Sunday. A possible time to have this service with women conducting the service would be Mother's Day 2027. At that time we would honor the memory of Mary Annette Gorden. A motion by Barb Hazlett with a second by Connie Burgess was made. All agreed.

NEXT MEETING: "Christmas in July" on July 21 will be the next WELCA gathering. The next scheduled business meeting will be on August 18, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:33 with the Lord's Prayer.

Thanks to Shelby Plyler for hosting this WELCA meeting at Green Acres and especially thanks for the cookies and beverages.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Marckwardt

Augustana's Monthly Food Collection

If you will recall, during our Annual Meeting it was suggested and approved that we collect food for both the Food Pantry and Uplift. The month of September had us collecting canned fruit for the Food Pantry. During October we will collect canned fruit for Uplift.

Canned fruit is expensive and not readily available through Feeding America. Feeding America is the main source for purchasing food for both the Food Pantry and Uplift. Therefore, both organizations would love to have more canned fruit available to give to adults and students.

As always if you are unable to shop, shopping can be done for you. Please see Jan Marckwardt and she will be happy to do this for you.

Gifts for Kids
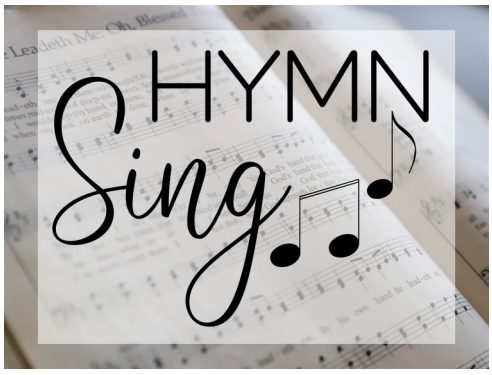
Gifts for Kids is an annual event in Osceola County that gives qualifying parents an opportunity to choose gifts for their children, hats and mittens for the kids, and receive household items right before Christmas. Families are also given food vouchers to local stores. Augustana has been participating in this event by providing games to families for over ten years. Our game inventory is very good as funds have allowed for the purchase of games throughout the year when they are on sale. The Augustana congregation has always been very generous with donations of games and funds for this project. It will not be necessary to collect games prior to the event this year. The event will be on Saturday, **December 12** for registered Osceola families and held at the Evart Middle School.

WELCA NEWS

At our meeting in September it was decided that WELCA will only meet every other month unless a special meeting is called by our president, Joan Chave`. We will meet again this year November 17 and in 2027 we will meet in February, April, June, August, Oct. and December. Watch the Messenger for reminders and dates of our meetings. Meetings will still be held the third Tuesday of the designated month at 10:30 a.m.

We are excited to be able to once again provide the HeadStart program with gift cards for each of the three HeadStart classrooms. The HeadStart leaders will then be able to choose what each classroom needs. In the past this has worked out well for them and they were pleased to be informed that we will be giving them gift cards again this year around Christmas.

Remember that all women of Augustana are welcome to attend our meetings. See you on **November 17**.



Edgetts Wesleyan and Tustin FBC are putting together a community sing service. It is **October 4th at 6 pm**. And will be in the gym at Grandma's House Daycare. We would love to have you all from Augustana join us!

continued from front page….

extremely derogatory and don't think it should ever be used in a church setting. None of us have the right to judge others based on their Sunday morning church attendance. We don't know what life challenges others may have; honestly, it's none of our business. And the advice to keep children in the back pews with their mothers (no mention of fathers) completely overlooks the fact that small children sitting in the back can't see what's happening.

After reading this dictatorial piece on behavior in church, I would hope that this kind of thinking has been discontinued by our more modern congregations. I pray that none of us fall victim to the sin of thinking we're somehow better than our sisters and brothers because we go to church and they might not. One of the clear blessings of the gospel message is that God's love for us isn't based on this kind of rigid rules. Through the life, death and resurrection Jesus has shown us the magnitude of God's unfailing love toward us. Let us all continue to strive to do our very best to share it with others.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

Church Mission Statement

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



CHURCH COUNCIL

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Becky Miller	231-920-7883	beckymiller81@live.com
Vice-President	Mine Barnes	231-884-7128	birdhunterup@gmail.com
Secretary	Julie Seguin	231-878-3119	jkseguin@gmail.com
Treasurer	Terry Marckwardt	231-872-0149	etmarck@sbcglobal.net
Members:	Denna Light	231-499-9560	dlight@netonecom.net
	Jim Carmody	231-288-0731	sjcarmody85@yahoo.com
	Brian Hammar	231-920-4087	bhammar@att.net
	Kurt Hammar	231-578-1153	heatherhamar1@gmail.com

An Opportunity to Help Our Community's Needs

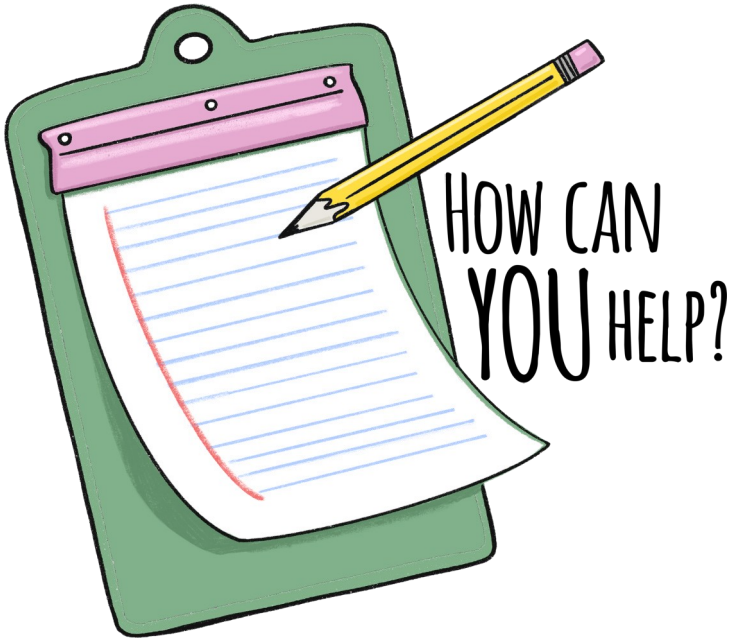
We have the opportunity to help those less fortunate than we are by donating **new or like-new** outerwear. Items needed are coats, snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. for adults and children. A box for collection will be set up in our fellowship hall. For more information, please read page 7 in this Messenger.

You'rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxrfxctly. It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxrson. I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx bxcausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxcxssary, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdxd vxry much."



Seeds of Victory

Months before the U.S. victory at the World War II Battle of Midway, important work was happening far from the ocean. Code analysts were quietly studying Japanese messages, using early tools that came long before the computers we know today. Their careful work helped crack a code and gave American forces the warning they needed to avoid an ambush.

It makes you wonder what those long days felt like. Did the analysts ever grow tired of searching for answers? Did they wonder whether their efforts mattered? Did they feel discouraged when the breakthrough had not yet come?

We can understand that feeling. Christians sometimes grow weary, too. We wonder whether teaching children about Jesus is making a difference. We wonder whether small acts of kindness, quiet prayers or faithful service will ever bear fruit. We see sin, sorrow and brokenness around us and wonder how victory will come.

But God sees what we cannot. No faithful work done for him is wasted. The Spirit who helps us plant seeds of truth and love is also able to bring the harvest. And because of Christ, the final victory is already secure.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE NETWORK PRESENTS:

HELP MEET OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS THIS WINTER!



PART 1: DONATE WINTER OUTERWEAR!



Accepting new or like-new donations *until 10/26*.

ITEMS NEEDED: Coats, snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. (No regular clothing please)

- **Big Rapids Housing Commission**
  9 Park View Dr. Big Rapids
- **Big Rapids City Hall**
  226 N. Michigan Ave. Big Rapids
- **Community Mental Health Mecosta County**
  500 S 3rd Ave. Big Rapids
- **Community Mental Health Osceola County**
  4473 220th Ave. Reed City
- **Dept. of Health and Human Services**
  800 Water Tower Rd. Big Rapids
  (M-F 8am-5pm)
- **Family Health Care**
  730 Water Tower Rd. Big Rapids
- **Love INC**
  732 W 7th St. Evart (Monday & Wednesday 10a - 3p)
- **Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency**
  706 Maple St. Big Rapids
- **Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency**
  240 E Church Ave. Reed City
- **Morley Stanwood Elementary**
  4808 Northland Dr. Morley
- **Morley Stanwood High School**
  4700 Northland Dr. Morley
- **MOTA- Mecosta Osceola Transit Authority**
  18710 16 Mile Rd. Big Rapids
- **Papa's Place (9a-4p)**
  106 N. Michigan Ave. Big Rapids
- **Reed City Housing Commission**
  802 S. Mill S. Reed City
- **Trinity Fellowship Church**
  15085 220th Ave. Big Rapids
  (Mon-Thur 9a-4p, Fri 9-noon, Sun am)

PART 2: FREE WINTER GEAR GIVEAWAY!

FREE WINTER OUTERWEAR!

(Open to the Public)



DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 28th, 2026

TIME: 3:00pm – 7:00pm

LOCATION: Trinity Fellowship Church
15085 220th Ave., Big Rapids, MI



CONTACT TO VOLUNTEER OR WITH QUESTIONS

231-492-7518 swoishb@michigan.gov Bonnie at DHHS

October 2026 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Commun-ion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
Oct 4	Becky Miller	Sue Carmody	Quilters	Jan Marckwardt	Jim Carmody		Kelly Marble
Oct 11	Julie Seguin	Jim Carmody					Pastor Appreciation
Oct 18							
Oct 25 Uplift Sunday					Barb Hazlett		



A man asked, "When will the service be over?"
An usher replied, "The congregation is still at worship, sir, but the SERVICE will actually begin when the people LEAVE the church" (Eph. 4:12).



PRAYER CONCERNS: Michelle & the Bush family, Micha, Lexi, Carlton, Anissa, Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- *World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026*
- *Food Pantry, October 5,, 2026 9-11am*
- *Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, October 11, 2026*
- *Fall Road Clean-up, Sunday October 11, 2026 10:30am*
- *Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12, 2026*
- *Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026*
- *Uplift Sunday, October 25, 2026*
- *Deadline for November Messenger, Wednesday October 28, 2026*
- *Halloween, Saturday, October 31, 2026*





Happy Anniversary

Duane & Angela Christie –Oct. 11 (20th)

Mike and Doreen Barnes – Oct. 17

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9am - 1pm

e-mail: azlcp@att.net
www.augustanatustin.com



Happy Birthday!

Doreen Barnes – October 7
Angela Christie – October 11
Joan Chavé - October 17
Duane Christie – October 26





Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
18499 Twenty Mile Rd.; P.O. Box 198
Tustin, MI 49688
Phone: 231-829-3837
Pastor: 740-296-9176

Please kindly deliver to:

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Food Pantry 9-11am	6	7	8	9	10
11 Pastor Appreciation Day Fall Clean-up	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Food Pantry 9-11am	20	21	22	23	24
25 Uplift Sunday Reformation	26	27	28 Newsletter Due	29	30	31 Halloween 