AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 6 August 2026

Special points of interest:

- Annual Meeting
- Food Pantry Sunday
- Can you help? Assisting Minister Sign-up
- Upcoming Dates to Remember

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Pastor's Page



"By contrast the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, ***patience****, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (Galatians 5:22)

I really wish that I could claim "patience" as one of my own fruits of the Spirit. I wish that it came easily to me but, the truth is, that I often find myself impatient. Most frequently I'm impatient with myself. All too often I want to hurry the process. To actively be making things happen. After all aren't we supposed to be actively engaging in life and not just letting things happen? Can't exercising too much patience lead to procrastination? However, I've begun to suspect that my understanding of patience has been mistaken. Recently I've come to understand that developing the qualities of patience takes patience! When you think of it like that it seems perfectly obvious.

It's taken me a long time to sort it out in my mind, but after participating in the Run the Pier 5k walk last weekend some things have started to clarify for me. Never having been athletically inclined, I started competitive walking 5k (3.1 miles) about 15 years ago. My daughters are both runners and gradually participating in races became a great time for family gatherings. It didn't take me very long to realize even though the number of racers in my age bracket was relatively small, most of those who participated were very disciplined in their training. It seemed as if earning a first, second or even third place was beyond my abilities.

But I continued, sometimes I worked hard, especially the year I walked a half marathon (13.1 miles) and sometimes I didn't. Finally, at this year's Run the Pier, I came in second. I won 2 medals and got to stand on the podium and it was great. I realized that though I really hadn't thought about it, I was being patient. Because I continued to work at it, I was actually being patient without even thinking about it.

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A Repair for Brokenness

Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment. How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair. Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way. Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and spiritual writer, often spoke of this sacred return, the daily turning back to God where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

June 14, 2026

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

Devotional read by Julie – "Noisy Love" from One Mustard Seed

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

Agenda: Motion by Mike, to approve the agenda, with support from Kurt. Carried.

Minutes: Motion by Mike to approve the April 2026 minutes, with support from Jim. Carried.

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

Building/Grounds Report: Windows will be washed June 30. The lawn will be mowed weekly on Friday or Saturday.

A letter was received from Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a volunteer organization that meets at the Highland Christian Reformed Church. They build beds for people in need. They are requesting volunteers, material, and financial support. We will have the request put in the bulletin and Messenger.

Old Business:

- June 21 – Father's Day brunch by WELCA. Cake is ordered for Pastor Phil's celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination.
- Annual reviews will be conducted in the next few weeks.
- Council meeting frequency was discussed.
- Clean up day for the church will be scheduled. A list of projects will be on the table for suggestions.

New Business:

- Budget meeting for 2026/2027 will be held July 12 after church
- Communion wafers will be used going forward.
- Council member vacancy will be included in the bulletin to see if anyone is interested.
- Melissa is writing a grant to Feeding America for building support.
- A form for planning funerals is available and will be used in the future.

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, July 12 at 10:15 after church, with Becky reading the devotional.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Seguin



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And so, I've learned a couple of things. One of them is that I really need to learn to be more patient with myself. Instead of criticizing myself, engaging in a lot of negative self-talk, perhaps I need to spend more time celebrating my successes and less time worrying about my failures. As your pastor, I urge each one of you to give some thought to the things you tell yourself and suggest you to being gentle with yourself. Because the other thing I've been reminded of is that we have a God who is infinitely patient with us. We believe in a God who is slow to anger and abiding in steadfast love. We are blessed by a God who not only understands us, but also loves us just as we are.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon

Northwest Osceola Food Pantry

Our collection of food for the food pantry continues. Each month we collect a food or personal item recommended by Food Pantry personnel. We collect this food/product by the 4th Sunday of each month. Once again Augustana did an outstanding job of collecting food in July. This month's food suggestion is **DEODERANT**. As always if you are unable to shop, the shopping can be done for you. Please let Jan Marckwardt know and she will be happy to purchase items on your behalf.

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

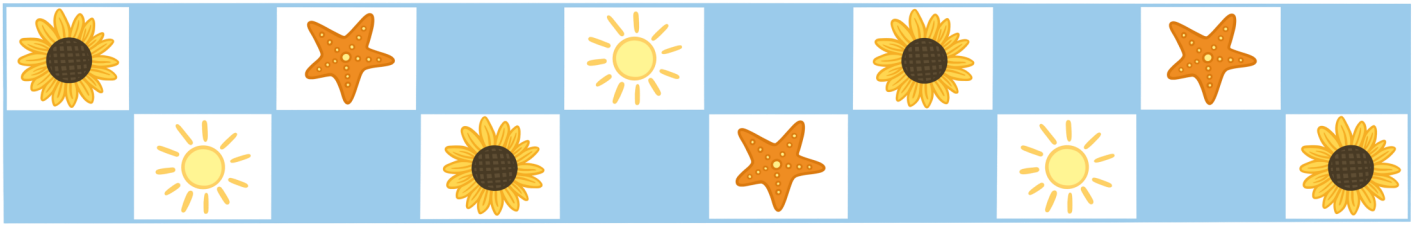
Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Becky Miller	231-920-7883	beckymiller81@live.com
Vice-President	Heather Hammar	231-629-2359	heather.hammar@gmail.com
Secretary	Julie Seguin	231-878-3119	jkseguin@gmail.com
Treasurer	Terry Marckwardt	231-872-0149	etmarck@sbcglobal.net
Members:	Michael Barnes	231-884-7128	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

August 2026 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Commun-ion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/ Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
Aug 2		Sue Carmody	Quilters		Harvey Miller		
Aug 9			Quilters				
Aug 16	Julie Seguin	Sue Carmody	Quilters		Jim Carmody	Julie Seguin	Quilters
Aug 23			Quilters				
Aug 30 Food Pantry Sunday			Quilters				



August 16th, after Sunday service, the annual meeting will take place. Please submit your reports by **August 3rd**!





PRAYER CONCERNS: Sarah M., Devere Byers, Amy Brown, Josh, Lexi, Carlton, Anissa, Men and women serving in the mili-tary – Ian Little.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- ***Committee Reports Due, August 3, 2026***
- *Food Pantry, August 3, 2026 9-11am*
- *Annual Meeting, August 16, 2026 10:30am*
- *Food Pantry, August 17, 2025 9-11apm*
- *WELCA, August 18, 2026 10:30am*
- *Deadline for September Messenger, August 31, 2026*



Carried and Called to Follow



Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead. There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.

Happy Anniversary

Phil and Sharon Van Dam – Aug. 1
Doug and Becky Miller– Aug. 2 (Celebrating 40 Years)
Terry and Jan Marckwardt – Aug. 3

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

9am - 1pm

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



Happy Birthday!

Joan Swanson – August 10
Sue Carmody – August 16
Connie Burgess – August 23
Pat Otberg – August 30
Sue Klingler – August 31





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:

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Food Pantry 9-11am	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Hall Rental 12pm
16 **Annual Mtg 10:15am**	17 Food Pantry 9-11am	18 WELCA 12pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Food Pantry Sunday- Deodorant	31 Newsletter Due					