

JULY

Messenger 2023

Augustana Lutheran Church

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: 9 am

Church Office: 231-829-3837

www.augustanatustin.org

"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



Therefore let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Co 5:9)

In our country, July begins on the fourth with a celebration of our independence from England. Traditionally it's celebrated with parades, fireworks, picnics, family gatherings' etc. Unfortunately, our country is experiencing a sense of division that makes the celebration of unity difficult if not almost impossible. In order to come together many families or groups of friends now have a list of forbidden topics: "let's not talk about fill in the blank". This may result in more peaceful gatherings, but can also add a spirit of unease or discomfort.

Perhaps this year we might consider the advice found in 1 Corinthians to eliminate malice and replace it with sincerity and truth. Granted it's easier said than done, but maybe we might try a kinder approach to our differences. Let's begin by thinking about our own attitudes and outlook towards life. It never hurts us to ask ourselves why we believe in what we do and to acknowledge that not everyone sees life the same way we do. So much of the way we view life and what is or is not important is the result of the culture in which we have been raised.

Here's a brief example of what I'm talking about. I spent my internship year at a very large Lutheran church located in an upscale suburb of Toledo, OH. Once a month I was invited to share a meal at one of the member's homes, which was a delightful way to get to know each other. All of the dinner invitations were for 5PM. From my working class Midwestern background, I assumed that my prompt arrival would shortly be followed by the evening meal. I quickly learned that that's not the way things were done in this community. A timely arrival was followed by an hour or more of polite conversation, perhaps with a few nuts or light snacks, before we finally sat down to eat. At first I thought I might starve to death before dinner was served.

If I were to view this situation from a point of "malice" or maybe even "evil", I would reach the conclusion that these people were rude, plainly misinformed, just wrong. However from the perspective of "sincerity and truth", they were just conforming to their local customs and life styles. This kind of realization can help us to understand that we do not all think alike. And maybe, just maybe we don't really need to.

God tells us to others, to treat them with compassion and love. Not to try to remake them in our own images.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Sharon



Council Notes

Augustana Council

Approved Minutes

May 15, 2023

Members present: George Klingler, Ken Forsberg, Ted Raven, Becky Miller, Sue Carmody, Heather Hammar and guest, Terry Markwardt.

The meeting was called to order by Ted at 6:22pm.

Agenda: Amendment to add March and April minutes. A motion to approve amended agenda by Heather with support from Sue, motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to approve both the minutes from March 20, and April 17 was made by Becky with support from George, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to approve the Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's report was made by Heather with support from Becky, motion carried.

Communications: Jan Markwardt requested funds of \$3,000 for uplift, and \$2,800 for gifts from kids from the endowment fund. A motion was made by George and supported by Sue to take funds from the endowment to donate the said money to these organizations, motion carried.

Building and grounds: George reported that a doorbell has been installed at both doors. The middle shed has been painted. The lightning strike damage has seemingly been repaired. The storage room is now clean. A bid was presented for the cost of sealing the parking lot, with two more coming in to review.

Old business:

Debit card seems to be working fine.

Speaker system: waiting for bids to come in.

New Business:

Discussion of carpet cleaning was tabled.

Volunteers needed for July's visit to Renucci House.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Heather Hammar

WELCA Meeting

Approved Minutes

May 16, 2023

This meeting was held at Green Acres in Cadillac to allow Shelby Plyler and Myrna Griep to attend the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by President Jeanette Otberg.

Those present: Barb Hazlett, Joan Chave`, Jan Marckwardt, Sue Klingler, Sandra Bottorff, Sandy Goddard, Myrna Griep and Shelby Plyler.

Jeanette Otberg read devotionals titled "Gods Phone Number" and "Humor Corner".

Correspondence: None

The Minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting prepared by Jan Marckwardt were presented with a motion to accept by Barb Hazlett and second by Sandy Goddard. The Minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report for April 2023 prepared by Jan Marckwardt was presented. The balance in the account as of April 30, 2023 is \$668.80. A motion to accept by Sue Klingler with support from Joan Chave` was approved.

Joan Chave` read the **WELCA purpose statement**.

OLD BUSINESS: Shelby Plyler thanked the group for the Easter flowers and thanked WELCA for holding the meeting at Green Acres. She also informed us that Pastor David Doane and Cindy Doane said to say "Hi" to all of us.

Confirmed again is our Christmas in July event to be held at Cast Iron Kitchen in Cadillac on Wednesday, July 19 beginning at noon. All women are invited and a \$5 gift to pass is suggested.

NEW BUSINESS: Barb Hazlett asked WELCA for a donation to the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF). A motion was presented by Sue Klingler with support from Joan Chave` to donate \$100 from WELCA. The motion carried. There then was an informative discussion regarding human trafficking in our area. Barb also mentioned that the next WELCA board meeting would be Saturday, May 20.

Joan Chave` informed the ladies that 28 quilts and blankets had been blessed on Sunday, May 14 at Augustana's service. They asked to be informed if anyone knew of places or individuals in need of quilts and blankets.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at Augustana at 10:30 a.m.



There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:56 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Marckwardt

Stewardship of our nation

Politics have always been a source of friction in the United States, but things have never been as polarized and ugly as today. We are in a precarious place, where many political and social experts say we are in danger of unraveling altogether.

Christians can help, we who are commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:8, Matthew 22:39) and commended to work for the common good (Isaiah 58:8-14, 1 Corinthians 12:7). In the month of July, when we remember the founding of our nation and all it stands for, we can recommit to good stewardship of our civic virtues, our political process, and national identity.

Here are some ideas:

Seek and Cling to truth: There are enough malicious “fake news” stories and wild conspiracy theories going around to make your head spin. Endeavor to find out what is true. Don’t listen to lies and liars, and always speak truth, especially in face of lies.

Love and pray for those with whom you disagree: Jesus taught us to pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44). Now those who disagree with our politics aren’t our enemies, but the principle remains. Love and pray for them.

Don’t insult: Jesus taught that when we say “you fool” to our neighbor we have committed murder in our hearts (Matthew 5:21-22). Engage on issues and policies, not personalities.

Settle for what’s fair: Politics works best when both sides compromise. Everyone loses when it’s played “all or nothing.”

Finally, be a peacemaker: Jesus taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Our country desperately needs cooler heads to prevail if we are to face the future as a healthy democracy. As Christian stewards, we can lead the way.

--Rob Blezard

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PRAYER CONCERNS*: Peggy Burns; Sandie Leach; Tom H; Carlton Plyler; Andrea Foster; Julie Bierema; Pamela McCalla; Janice Peterson; Tom R.; Skip Cornett; Leta Hoaglund; Family of Kyler Ruppert; Family of Katie Bigelow; Scott Thompson; Family of Clark Perry; Jeff N.; Scott Martinson; Gordon B.; Beverly Reimer; Men and women serving in the military – Ian Little.

PRAYER
list

July 2023 Assisting Ministers

Date	Projector Operator	Communion Assistant	Communion Preparer	Greeters/ Open/Close Church	Lector/ Prayer Leader	Tellers	Coffee Hour Host
July 2nd	Becky Miller	Jim & Sue Carmody	Becky Miller	Jan Marckwardt	Mary Raven	Becky Miller	Jan Marckwardt
July 16th	Julie Seguin	Ken Goddard	Sandy Goddard	Ted & Mary Raven	Harvey Miller		Sandy Goddard
July 16th	George Klingler	Becky Miller	Sue & George Klingler	Becky & Doug Miller	Ken Forsberg	George Klingler	Becky Miller
July 23rd		Joan Chave	Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Arv & Jeanette Otberg	Connie Burgess	Ted & Mary Raven	Jeanette Otberg
July 30th	Julie Seguin	Sue Carmody	Ted & Mary Raven	Ted & Mary Raven	Jim Carmody		Mary Raven

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Mon., July 3rd -9:00 AM-Noon – Food Pantry
- Tues., July 4th – Happy Independence Day!
- Sun., July 9th-Special Meeting after church
- Mon., July 17th - 9:00 AM-Noon – Food Pantry
- Mon., July 17th at 6:30 PM – Council Meeting
- Wed., July 19th at 12:00 noon – WELCA Christmas in July
- July 24-26th 6-8 PM – Vacation Bible School at Covenant
- Thursday., July 27th - Deadline for August Messenger
- Sun., Aug. 13th – Annual Meeting following the Worship Service



Happy Birthday!

Sandie Leach – July 4
Harvey Miller – July 6
Heather Hammar – July 7
Shelby Plyler – July 17
Ken Forsberg – July 18
Jeanette Otberg – July 28



Happy Anniversary

Bernie and Mary Annette Gorden – July 22

America the Beautiful -1893 poem (original)

O beautiful for halcyon skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the enameled plain!
America, America!
God shed His grace on thee,
Till souls wax fair as earth and air
And music-hearted sea!

-Katherine Lee Bates 1859 – 1929

“You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.”

— Erma Bombeck

An abundance of gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you’re good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to “outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

—Stephanie Martin

Welcome, New Members



UPLIFT UPDATE

YOU did it! You and the Great Lakes Energy community made it possible for Uplift to win a \$7,000 grant by simply voting for Uplift. The Uplift board is very grateful to all of you for your votes and your FB shares to get the word out. Uplift volunteers are very special but so is the community and this grant will help us to continue to supply food to Pine River Area students in need.

God is watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."

The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God's sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Newest Member Spotlight

Jim Carmody joins us as Augustana's newest member and was honored during the June 25th service. He's joined here by his wife, Sue Carmody, during coffee fellowship. Welcome, Jim and thank you for both for all your service and dedication to Augustana Lutheran!

When we least deserve love

"Love me when I least deserve it," says a Swedish proverb, "because that's when I really need it." My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respooled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they'd start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus' arrest. But Jesus didn't treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we're at our worst, hurting God's heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Ladies! WELCA will be celebrating "Christmas in July" this year at Cast Iron Kitchen in Cadillac on Wednesday, July 19 at noon. Bring a friend, bring a relative, bring a neighbor, bring a \$5 gift to pass. **All** women are welcome. A sign up sheet is on the table. Car pooling will be available.

There will not be a business meeting in July. Next meeting is Tuesday, August 15, 10:30 at Augustana.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Luther Logging Days

June 30, July 1st-2nd

Leroy Razaque Days

July 7-8th



DEWING CENTER • 202 S. Albert St • LeRoy, MI

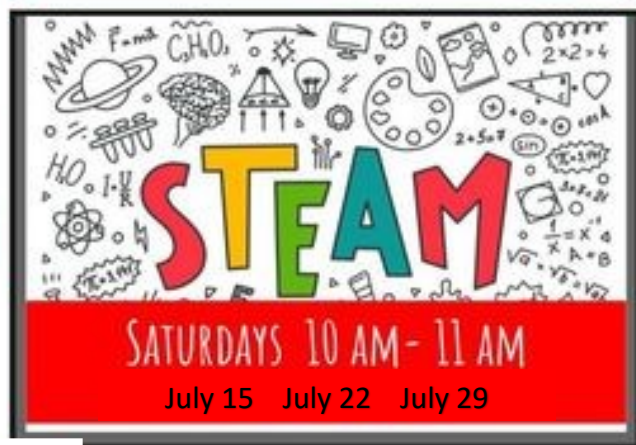
Saturday, July 8 at 3pm LIVE MUSIC CONCERT

Steven Paul, award winning fiddler and banjo player from Copemish, Michigan, will be in concert at Dewings Center, in the Village on Albert Street, on the Saturday of Razzasque Days, 3pm to 4:30pm.

Free Admission | Donations to Benefit the Center are Appreciated



**Community VBS is July 24, 25, & 26th
from 6-8pm at the
Tustin Covenant Church**



FOR MORE INFORMATION/SIGN UP:

- CALL/TEXT: 231-768-4493
- Facebook: Leroy library
- Online link:
<https://forms.gle/MsrsLevVYVcxTPRP7>
- Email: leroycommunitylibrary@gmail.com



Pine River Area Historical Society

The Pine River Area Museum is open every Saturday all summer. Admission is free and hours are 11am to 3pm.



July 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		Quilting Club every Tuesday 1pm				1 Recycling 9-11am 
2	3 Food Pantry 9-12pm 	4  Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Food Pantry 9-12pm Council Meeting 6:30pm	18	19 WELCA Meeting 12pm Cadillac 	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 August Newsletter Due	27	28	29
30	31	Community VBS 6-8pm				