



— September 2026 — **Augustana News**

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When the church was new, it was pretty small and pretty simple.

Our Acts bible study after Easter this year reminded me of that. We read about the small communities that the disciples planted after Jesus' death and resurrection. They didn't meet in cathedrals, temples, or sanctuaries with stained glass. They met in homes. They didn't have worship with choral music, extensive liturgy, bulletins, screens, or entertainment. They worshipped around a simple meal. They didn't have programs for all ages or soup kitchens or budgets. They met the needs as they arose, teaching, feeding, and caring for those who came to them with whatever they had.

This time of year can be a busy one in our churches as a lot of programs, activities, and ministries start and restart their year. September 2026 is no exception: Faith is Fun is back in full swing at Grace, Children's Church and Confirmation Class begin again, Vocal and Bell Choir have restarted, new opportunities for bible study are scheduled, and there is a lot of planning in the works for all of the holidays and occasions that will fill our calendars from now through Christmas.

We can put a lot of pressure on these activities. We work hard to make sure things go well. We invite and publicize and invite again. We lament if not as many folks show up as we hoped for. We blame a changing culture and those who have set their priorities outside of our churches.

In the Gospel reading on September 6, Jesus will remind us of something that is as true today as it was in those early days of the church: "...where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." It doesn't take flashy programming, a big worship service, or a calendar packed with intriguing events. All it takes is a small gathering in Jesus' name to welcome him in. I don't know that the days of the early church were as simple as we sometimes imagine. The pressures were different from ours, but they were building a whole new system of belief and dealing with violent persecution. It couldn't always have been simple. But sometimes the pressures of today—DO MORE! BE MORE! GET MORE LIKES! DO IT ALL NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!--undercut the simple things at the heart of our faith tradition.

Gather. In Jesus' name. With a few others. See how Jesus shows up.

Our kids will gather in children's church and our youth will gather for youth group and confirmation class—often in smaller numbers.

Our church councils will gather in Jesus' name to do the work of stewarding our churches' resources well.

We'll gather for study that helps form our faith.

We'll gather on Sundays, and though I am grateful for the addition of beautiful music to our modern day worship, our Sundays will continue to focus on what's at the core: scripture, preaching, prayer for ourselves and the world, and sharing a simple but very special meal in the bread and cup of Holy Communion.

(Jesus Shows Up...Continued on Page 2)

(Jesus Shows Up...Continued from Page 2)

When we turn down the pressure on doing more, being more, and attracting more, we are better able to recognize the multitude of rich, simple blessings we already know as God's people at Augustana and Grace Lutheran Churches.

I pray you will join our little community of two or three or a few more this September.

Pastor Emily



Did you know that you can give to Augustana electronically?

Set up your offerings through Tithe.ly! Go to our website <https://augustanaelkhart.org> and at the top of the page click on "More" then "Giving. Or scan the QR code here using the camera app on your smartphone. You can make a one time donation or set up your weekly or monthly offering. Thank you for giving to God's work at Augustana!



ANNUAL QUARTER SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

We are looking for a few donations! Donate items that make a nice, small gift for anyone in the family--grandparents, parents, or kids. These items will be available for sale to kids from our church and neighborhood who want to purchase a Christmas present for their family members. Please drop off at the church by December 6th. Volunteers will be needed that day as well, and the sale will be at 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Fellowship Opportunities

First Wednesday Breakfast Club
Wednesday, September 2nd ~ 9 AM
 Meet at Perkins on Cassopolis Street.
 Call Deb Rowland for reservations.



TIME
FOR
LUNCH

Last Thursday Lunch Bunch
Thursday, September 24 ~ Noon
 Come and join your Augustana friends for lunch
 at:

Baker's Nook Cafe 127 Easy Shopping
Place Elkhart IN 46516
 Bring a friend or neighbor with you.
 Phone your reservation and the number coming to
 the church office by Monday, September 21st.

First Sunday Dinner
 Join us on **Sunday, September 6th**
 for our First Sunday Dinner after
 worship. Stay for food, fun &
 fellowship!

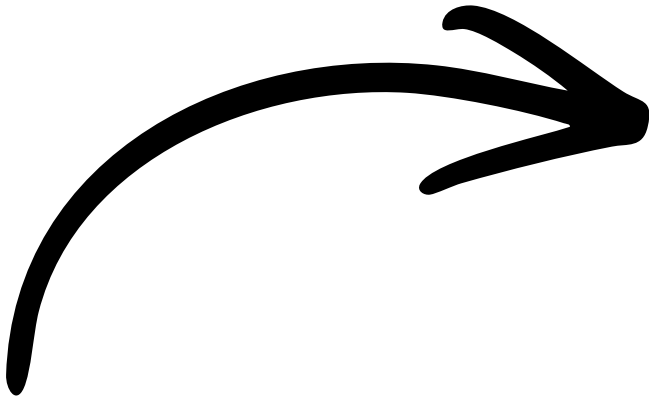


FAITH FORMATION AND BIBLE STUDIES THIS FALL

We have 3 opportunities for learning and spiritual growth this fall. We are encouraging every member of our congregations to participate in at least one study this year. If you haven't yet, it's a great time to join one of these groups!



- **Reformation History:** At Grace after 9 AM worship on Sundays from September 13th- October 4th (4 weeks) our very own Greg Smith will lead a study on the history of the Reformation. Grab some goodies from the Fellowship Hall and join him in the Luther Room.
- **Called to Be Political (But I don't want to be political!):** On September 23rd at 6 PM we will have a one-time workshop examining what both the bible and our Lutheran tradition have to say about politics, and the role of Christians in politics. Join us in the Luther Room at Grace.
- **Our 4 week bible study in October will explore what Jesus has to say about another topic we might like to avoid - MONEY!** It's actually one of the subjects Jesus teaches about most. Join us in the Luther Room at Grace at 6 PM, Wednesdays in October.



young adult group
september 30, 6 to 8 pm
at st. john's episcopal church

FOOD, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP!

**Come for conversation
 and connection with other
 young adults
 exploring life
 and faith.**

226 W LEXINGTON AVE.
 ELKHART, IN

QUESTIONS? EMAIL...

PASTOREMILYTW@GMAIL.COM

FATHERNOLAN@STJOHNELKHART.ORG

Blessing Bags, October 10:

We will be on the Plaza in downtown Ellkhart beginning at 9 AM on October 10th to give out personal hygiene supplies, grab and go food, and items to help keep our neighbors warm. We are well stocked with hygiene supplies, so this time we are focusing on **collecting WARM items for this Blessing Bags distribution**: handwarmers, and new or gently used stocking hats, scarves, warm gloves/mittens, and blankets. Items may be left in the box at the back of the sanctuary or brought to the church office at Augustana or Grace. The noisy offering for October at Grace will also go toward purchasing additional supplies. If you would like to volunteer to set up, transport items, pass out bags, or clean up, please speak with Leann Buss or contact the church office. Thanks as always for your generosity!



Pet blessing October 4

sunday, oct. 4, 1:30 pm

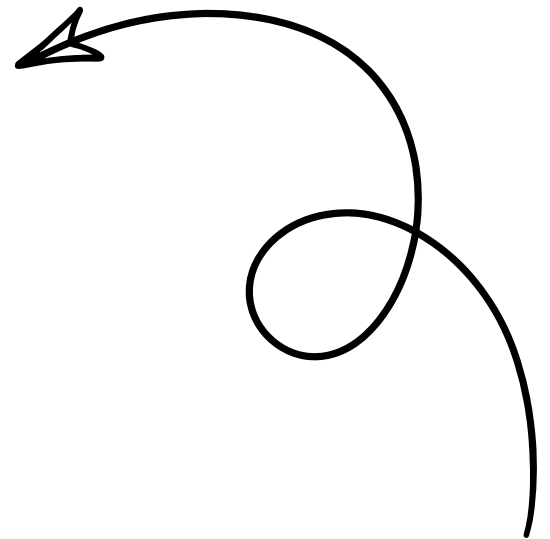
location pending

led by st. john's episcopal church

and augustana and grace lutheran churches



furry, feathered,
and scaly
friends welcome!
or bring a photo
of pets who
are shy.



YOUTH GROUP

+

CONFIRMATION CLASS

at

Grace Lutheran Church

Snacks and games, 4:00-4:45 PM.
Confirmation Class, 4:45-5:45 PM
for interested students.

FOR GRADES 6-8

FALL 2026 SESSION
Wednesdays
Sept. 9-Nov. 18
4:00-5:45 PM

331 W Marion St, Elkhart, IN

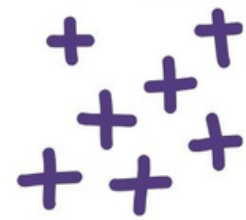
Contact Pastor Emily with questions or to register:
574-294-1951, pastoremilytw@gmail.com

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH IS FOR... KIDS AND FAMILIES!



+ Children's Church every
Sunday of the school year
during worship
NEW CLASSES BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 13

+ Our "Prayground" for
little ones in the sanctuary!
+ Engaging preaching,
fellowship, and
bible study for the
grown-ups too!



11 AM SUNDAYS

Augustana Lutheran Church
1133 Kilbourn St C, Elkhart, IN



For More Information
augustanaelkhart.org, or find
us on Facebook or Instagram



September 2026 Servers Schedule

September 6 – Pentecost 15

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder
Lector: Nancy Tinder
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

September 13 – Pentecost 16

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Mark Moyer
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Deb Rowland

September 20 – Pentecost 17

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Maralee Macumber
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Randy Tinder
Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

September 27– Pentecost 18

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder
Lector: Diane Erickson
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Deb Rowland & Emily Moyer

September Altar Guild

Doris & Jerry Koontz

*Please let the office know of any changes.

September Altar Flowers



September 6 - Ed Williams

September 13 - Available

September 20 - Available

September 27 - Jess & Chris Kauffman
in honor of their anniversary

If the Altar Flowers are not sponsored, there will be no flowers. Two floral bouquets total \$50.

Many slots are available for sponsorship throughout the year. The easel is at the back of the pews. Choose your date, sign your name, and whether the flowers are in honor or memory of someone special. You may pay when you sign up or later. Either way, please use the envelope provided for your \$50 for both bouquets. Thank you!



Take-Along Page

**177 PEOPLE
SERVED IN
AUGUST**

Take this page with you to the grocery store to help Augustana serve those in need.

God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help - Thursday, September 10 and Thursday, September 24 will be our next sack distributions.

Thank you to all who have brought items! We continue to serve more people each week, so your contributions are very much needed and appreciated!

Please bring items to the church, Sunday mornings or any time during the week during office hours, placing them in the barrels by the office.

The following items are needed:

Canned chicken or tuna Canned fruits & vegetables Cereal & Oatmeal Ritz or other crackers in sleeves Pork and Beans Boxes or bags of rice Boxed potatoes Peanut Butter & Jelly Spaghetti or other pasta Canned spaghetti sauce (red) Cake mixes and frosting Pudding - Jell-O Cookies (individually wrapped) Juice Shelf stable milk Cooking oil - butter	Toothpaste & toothbrushes Shampoo Toilet Paper & Kleenex Dish Soap & Laundry Detergent (not pods) Cleaning supplies *The following items are found at Dollar Tree: * Mac & Cheese with foil pack Boxed cereals (any size or kind) Spaghetti-O's – pull top Pork n' Beans & Dogs – pull top Canned kid meals Bags or boxes of rice Dinty Moore Stew Bags of beans Tuna
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Cans with pop-tops are preferred, though we know many cans do not come that way.

NO EXPIRED FOOD

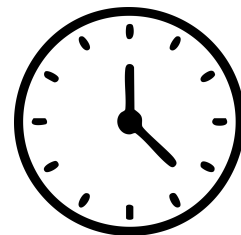
**THANK
YOU!**



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 9 AM - Breakfast Club @ Perkins	3 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	4	5
6 11 AM - Worship 1st Sunday Dinner	7	8	9 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace	10 10-11 AM - God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	11	12
13 11 AM - Worship Children's Church begins	14	15 6:30 PM - Council meeting	16 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace	17 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	18	19
20 11 AM - Worship	21	22 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	23 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace 6 PM - <i>Called to Be Political</i> workshop @ Grace	24 10-11 AM - God's Gifts Pantry Noon - Lunch Bunch @ Baker's Nook 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	25	26
27 11 AM - Worship	28	29	30 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace			



Office Hours



Pastoral Information

Rev. Emily Trubey-Weller

Pastor Emily's Office Hours

9 AM-3 PM

Monday, Wednesday at *Augustana*

Tuesday, Thursday at *Grace*

*Please call for an appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ 9 AM-3 PM

Tuesday ~ 1 PM-4 PM

Wednesday ~ 1 PM-4 PM

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

1133 Kilbourn Street

Elkhart IN 46514

Phone: 574-294-3823

E-mail: secretary@augustana.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.augustanaelkhart.org

Augustana Mission Statement:

As the Body of Christ, we are called to Love All, Serve All, Welcome All