



Augustana News

March 2026

I remember standing in church as a kid, watching my pastor preside at the altar for Holy Communion. Having not attended church consistently until I was about 10 years old, I watched everything with a curious and eager eye. I got the importance of Communion right away. Even if I didn't quite understand the meaning, I knew it was significant for our church and the people who gathered to receive it.

What I couldn't understand was why my pastor had to go through this lengthy, cumbersome prayer before we could receive Communion. Why did he name all those biblical people and places in that prayer? Hadn't we heard it all before? Couldn't we just bypass this prayer and get onto the good part where we got to eat?

When I got to seminary, I finally learned that the name for this prayer is the Eucharistic Prayer (as Holy Communion sometimes goes by the name Eucharist). I learned more about why we most often include it in the sacrament of Holy Communion. This prayer helps us remember the wonders God has done down through the ages and across the universe. From creation and the first creatures, through the trials and triumphs of the Hebrew people, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, to the work of the Holy Spirit in the church today, we recount a sampling of all God has done. In this prayer, the presider tries to trace a path the congregation can follow as they reflect on their place in this mighty and wondrous history. This proclamation of God's wonders leads us into a sacrament that is more wondrous than we can accurately articulate. Remembering all that God has done for, with, and through us prepares us to receive Jesus in, with, and under the elements of this sacrament. It prepares us to receive Jesus *here*, then go *out there* to continue as a part of Jesus' ongoing work in the world.

Over the years, I've come to see all of worship as good practice for our life in the world. As we mentioned on Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent, the practice of Confession and Forgiveness in worship prepares us for lives of humility and transformation outside of the church. We live in confidence of God's forgiveness, and with the expectation that though we and others will mess up, we can also change and do better. The Eucharistic Prayer helps us remember our place in the long history of God's people and the ongoing work of God in the world. The Passing of the Peace is not meant to be a rote handshake or peace sign with our fellow churchgoers, but a real practice of making peace with one another.

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(Holy Communion —Continued from Page 1)

This Lenten season we will continue exploring the ways worship helps us rehearse to live as God's people in the rest of our lives. This practice will also prepare us to join Jesus in the journey of Holy Week, as he walks through death to resurrection. The stories of Holy Week, which we will begin telling in just a few weeks on Palm Sunday (March 29), are central to our faith. Every Christian person should be in church to hear and experience the stories of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. See our complete Holy Week schedule below and plan now so you don't miss out on any piece of this story.

When we arrive at Easter, we will arrive ready. Ready to experience resurrection not only in worship, not only in the stories of scripture, but also in our lives in the world. Our Lenten rehearsal will prepare us for an Easter chorus that sings with our entire being: Allelu— oops! Can't say that world yet! But you know what I mean.

A blessed Lent! I'll see you all at practice.

Peace,
Pastor Emily

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 & Wednesday
1 PM–4 PM



March 1- Lent 2	March 8 - Lent 3	March 15 - Lent 4	March 22- Lent 5	March 29- Palm Sunday
Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Rom 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Rom 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	1 Sam 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Ezek 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Rom 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Phil 2:5-11 Matthw 26:14-27:66



PRAYER LIST

*Please contact us with updates,
praises, & requests.*

Health Concerns

- Ken
- Sister Nora
- Barbara
- Joel—Barbara’s son-in-law—cancer
- Roger—friend of Ed—undergoing cancer treatment

Other concerns

- Military Service Members

March Fellowship Opportunities

FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB Wednesday, March 4 ~ 9 AM

Meet at Perkins on Cassopolis Street.
Call Deb Rowland for reservations.

LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, March 26 ~ Noon

Come and join your Augustana
friends for lunch at:

Baker's Nook Café
127 Easy Shopping Place,
Elkhart

Bring a friend or neighbor with
you. *Phone your reservation and
the number coming to the church
office by Monday, March 23.*

*** God's Gifts Pantry**
2nd & 4th Thursdays ~
10-11 AM

*** Join us each
Sunday morning
for Fellowship in
the Narthex before
& after worship.**

March HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, March 4 -

Breakfast Club at Perkins

Lenten Prayer

Tuesday, March 10 -

Augustana Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 11 -

Lenten Prayer

Thursday, March 12 -

God's Gifts Pantry

Wednesday, March 18 -

Lenten Prayer

Monday, March 23-

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, March 25 -

Lenten Prayer

Tuesday, March 26-

God's Gifts Pantry

Thursday, March 26-

Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Cafe

Sunday, March 29-

Combined Worship at Grace

Easter Flowers!

Easter is fast approaching and it's time to place your order for Easter flowers!

Again this year the choices for flowers are Easter Lilies, Tulips, or Hyacinths, all are 6" potted with a lovely gold pot cover.

Each beautiful plant costs only \$10.

Make your order with this order sheet and drop it off at the church office or place in the offering.

NOTE: Orders must be submitted by **Sunday, March 15.**



Each plant is \$10.00.

Deadline is Sunday, March 15, 2026

NO EXCEPTIONS

Quantity

Easter Lilies _____ X \$10 = _____

Tulips _____ X \$10 = _____

Hyacinths _____ X \$10 = _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

God is all in for us.

This Lent we're going ALL IN for God's love, too!

Here's a peek at our weekly themes for the season. Each week, in addition to exploring scripture, we'll look at how one part of our worship prepares us to go all in for God's work in the world. Expect to see these themes in midweek Lenten Prayer, on Sunday mornings, and in our daily devotional.

March 1, Second Sunday in Lent *All In for the Unknown*

Answering any call from God involves entering whole-heartedly into the unknown.

Worship connection: The Creeds

March 8, Third Sunday in Lent *All In for the Wonder*

Relationship with God draws out our questions, wonder, and a true sense of awe.

Worship connection: The Eucharistic Prayer

March 15, Fourth Sunday in Lent *All In for Relationship*

God doesn't hesitate to enter into the messiness of human relationships, and calls us to do the same.

Worship connection: Passing the Peace

March 22, Fifth Sunday in Lent *All In for Letting Go*

Letting go of expectations allows us to make way for God to do something wondrous and new, taking flight on a leap of faith.

Worship connection: Prayers of the People

March 29, Palm and Passion Sunday in Lent *All In for the Highs and Lows*

Balancing Palm Procession and Passion on this day practices entering into all the highs and lows of human life with our congregation and with Christ.

Worship connection: Blessing of the Palms

April 5, Easter Sunday in Lent *All In for Resurrection*

Embracing resurrection as a key part of our faith frees us to embrace the good news that no part of life or death is out of God's life-giving reach.

Worship connection: Thanksgiving for Baptism

Lent Midweek Prayer has begun! Join us in person or online.

Think of it as worship-lite, a devotional moment, informal prayer. This Lent we will gather in two different ways for a brief time of prayer and reflection on Wednesdays. If you prefer a daytime or in person gathering, join us at Augustana in the fellowship hall at noon.

If you prefer evening prayer to end your day, join us on Grace's Facebook page for livestreamed prayer at 6:30 PM.

However you pray, set aside some extra time to dwell in God's presence this Lenten season!

Holy Week 2026 Schedule

Journey with Jesus for the entire Holy Week story, through cross to resurrection!

Palm Sunday, March 29

5th Sunday Combined Worship, 9:00 AM at Grace and livestreamed

Maundy Thursday, April 2

6:30 PM at Augustana and livestreamed

Good Friday, April 3:

12:00 PM Stations of the Cross at Grace

6:30 PM Tenebrae Service at Grace and livestreamed

Easter Vigil, April 4:

With local Episcopal Churches, 8:30 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday, April 5: ALLELUIA!

9:00 AM at Grace and livestreamed

11:00 AM at Augustana and livestreamed

Still seeking teachers for local ESL classes: Churches in Elkhart are again organizing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults. This is a way to show love for our neighbors as they strive to be a part of the community. Volunteer teachers are needed for the next session of classes, March 1 through May 26 at Prairie Street Mennonite Church. Sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM. Volunteering once or twice a week is your choice. Materials are provided. You do not need to be a trained teacher. If desired, you may start as an assistant-in-training working with a veteran teacher. You do not need to be able to speak Spanish. Substitutes are available for illness and vacations. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, February 16, 6:30 at Prairie Street Mennonite Church to hear about the program and ask questions. Please contact Sueann VonGunten, vonalter2@gmail.com or 574-612-3108 with your interest or questions.

Meal Train for the Laroche Family Circle of Care

Augustana church members are supporting a family through a Circle of Care with the Center for Healing and Hope. The Laroche family is going through a difficult time as the mother in the family has just undergone serious surgery to treat cancer.

One way we are supporting is by signing up to provide dinners to the family throughout March. Scan this QR code to go to the family's Meal Train page and sign up for a date (or visit <https://mealtrain.com/ne7nro>).

The page includes all details about preferred foods and allergies, and where and when to drop off food. You can reach out to Pastor Emily for more information or more ways to help!



Lutheran World Relief

Warm Blanket Making
Goal—3 Blankets

March 24, 2026

10 AM—Noon light lunch as we finish up
Augustana Lutheran Church
113 Kilbourn St.
Elkhart, Indiana

No Experience necessary. **Everyone is welcome:**
neighbors, other church members, friends, acquaintances.



**Pathways Retreat in Goshen is a space for rest, reflection, and renewal!
Plan a visit to set aside some time for spiritual refreshment.**

One easy way is to take a reflection walk. Reflection Walks at Pathways Retreat are located along the 0.6 mile main trail loop through the woods. These are self-paced, free, and require no reservation. Simply stop by anytime during daylight hours to enjoy a time of reflection in creation. After you've completed the walk, take time to enjoy more of our two-miles of trails through woods and prairies. All are welcome! about your history? Can they plot a course through your journey of faith this season?

<p>Stations of the Cross Walk March 29-April 4</p> <p>Stations of the Resurrection Walk April 5-30</p> <p>Stations of the Trees Walk May 1-June 30</p> <p>Hidden Creature Trail June 1-30</p> <hr/>	
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MARCH 2026 SERVER SCHEDULE

March 1 – Lent 2

Assisting Minister: Ed Williams
Lector: Ed Williams
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

March 8 – Lent 3

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Diane Erickson
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Deb Rowland & Janet Moyer

March 15 – Lent 4

Assisting Minister: Ed Williams
Lector: Maralee Macumber
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

March 22– Lent 5

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Mark Moyer
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Deb Rowland & Janet Moyer

March 29 – Palm Sunday

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Maralee Macumber
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

March Altar Guild

Deb Rowland & Heidi Paston

Please let the office know of any changes.



Pick up your *free* copy of
The Word in Season devotional booklets!

March Altar Flowers



March 1– Emily Trubey-Weller

March 8 – Available

March 15– Available

March 22– Linda & Mike Iavagnilio

March 29– Available

If the Altar Flowers are not sponsored, there will be no flowers. Two floral bouquets total \$25. That's a real deal! 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 \$25. Thank you.

Financial and Attendance Report

[Fiscal Year Runs Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31]	
**Information thru February 24, 2026	
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$23,511.25	\$15,775.70
February Monthly Budget Requirement	February Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,730	\$11,590.00
MARCH Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$11,730	\$ -
February Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	February Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
27	2

**Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights
Of February 10, 2026**

Present: Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Mark Moyer, Maralee Macumber, Chuck Miller, Doris Koontz, Brian Fann, Nancy Tinder, Randy Tinder, Noah Reshan, Pastor Emily

Minutes from the January Council meeting were presented & unanimously approved.

***Financial reports** January report was presented & unanimously approved.

***Pastor Emily's reports** were presented.

Erin Taylor will be playing organ sometime in the future.

We discussed the music director position – Chris Beyer is willing to go forward with spring and fall joint choir. Compensation TBD.

We will continue 5th Sunday – next will be Palm Sunday at Grace.

***Old Business:**

Rye bread will be donated to God's Gifts Pantry.

We discussed the Discretionary Fund – Randy will add this money to the General fund finance reports. The policy was approved by council.

***New Business:**

We will be sponsoring a table for an upcoming Mosaic fundraiser event.

Discussed a need for a finance committee.

Still looking into issues with live streaming

(See full minutes on the Bulletin Board outside of the Fellowship Hall.)





Take-Along Page

243 People
Served in February

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

God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help

Thursday, March 12 and **Thursday, March 26** 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 | Toothpaste & toothbrushes |
| Canned fruits & vegetables | Shampoo |
| Cereal & Oatmeal | Toilet Paper & Kleenex |
| Ritz or other crackers in sleeves | Dish Soap & Laundry Detergent (not pods) |
| Pork and Beans | Cleaning supplies |
| Boxes or bags of rice | *The following items are found at <u>Dollar Tree</u> : |
| Boxed potatoes | *Mac & Cheese with foil pack |
| Peanut Butter & Jelly | *Boxed cereals (any size or kind) |
| Spaghetti or other pasta | *Spaghetti-O's – pull top |
| Canned spaghetti sauce (red) - no glass jars | *Pork n' Beans & Dogs – pull top |
| Cake mixes and frosting | *Canned kid meals |
| Pudding - Jello | *Bags or boxes of rice |
| Cookies (individually wrapped) | *Dinty Moore Stew |
| Juice - no glass jars | *Bags of beans |
| Shelf stable milk | *Tuna |
| Cooking oil - butter | |

Cans with pop-tops are preferred though we know many cans do not come that way.
NO EXPIRED FOOD

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11 AM-Worship	2 6PM Confirmation Class @ St. John's	3	4 9 AM- Breakfast Club @ Perkins Noon – Lenten Prayer	5 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	6	7
8 11 AM-Worship	9 6PM Confirmation Class @ St. John's	10 6:30 PM- Augustana Council Meeting	11 Noon – Lenten Prayer	12 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	13	14
15 11 AM-Worship Easter Flower Order Deadline	16 6PM Confirmation Class @ St. John's	17	18 Noon – Lenten Prayer	19 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	20	21
22 11 AM-Worship	23 Newsletter Deadline 6PM Confirmation Class @ St. John's	24	25 Noon – Lenten Prayer	26 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace Noon- Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Café	27	28
29 9 AM- Combined Worship at Grace	30 6PM Confirmation Class @ St. John's	31				



Augustana Lutheran Church

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Elkhart IN 46514

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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.*