



# Augustana News

## December 2025

*Ding! Ding!*

This is the ding that says, *time's up!* It's the ding that shouts, *it's done!* and lets us know that the delicious smell coming from the oven is ready. It's the ding that surprises us, reminds us of something important, or brings a warning. *Ding ding ding!*

I hope you get familiar with this *ding* over the next month because you will hear a bell ring in worship in a special way this Advent season. Each week during the children's message, I will invite the kids to ring a bell—*ding!*—and share a time when they suddenly noticed God at work in their life. Kids are so good at connecting what they learn at church with the rest of the world. I am confident they will have plenty to *ding* about! But maybe I'll have to give the adults a chance to ring the bell too...

Because this is an important skill we are cultivating together. When we train ourselves to notice how God shows up not just on Sunday morning, during bible study, or when we're volunteering at church, but also in our regular, ordinary, everyday lives in the world, *Emmanuel* is real.

Near the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, the author quotes Isaiah and tells us that when Jesus is born, "they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23)

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, as Jesus ascends and leaves his disciples, his final words are, "And remember, I am with you always..." (Matthew 28:20)

So when we sing "Emmanuel" in this Advent season, it is more than another name for Jesus. It is proclamation and promise to the world. At Christmas, God will be born among us again.

And God will never leave us. This is at the heart of what it means to live as God's people now.

The baby born and placed in a manger in Bethlehem as Emmanuel wasn't the end of the story—it was the beginning!

The love that you feel for those who matter to you most and the pain you feel when you miss them. *Ding!* The care of a stranger, no matter how small. *Ding!* The gift of forgiveness when someone has hurt you. *Ding!* The drive you feel to help and advocate for our neighbors in need. *Ding!* The way a radiant sunset, snowy day, or beautiful music fills your heart. *Ding!* The gratefulness you feel when you sit down before a simple meal. *Ding! Ding! Ding!*

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*(Ding! Ding!—Continued from Page 1)*

The birth of Jesus means that God is present in our human existence in an entirely new way. *Ding!* And the work of the Holy Spirit means that the Divine power of Love Incarnate that entered our world through that little baby will never, ever leave us.

So on Christmas Eve, we'll ring all the bells as each of us finds our place around the manger. And I mean ALL the bells! Bring any and all bells you might own with you for worship on Christmas Eve. With our ringing, our singing, our living we will together testify to the birth of Jesus in the stable at Christmas, and in our lives each and every day.

*Ding! Ding! Ding! ...and Merry Christmas!*

Pastor Emily

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**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

Save the dates: Here are some upcoming events in the life of our congregations, not to be missed! Please see our Facebook page or Instagram for all of these dates and more, and **SHARE THEM** or **SEND** them to a friend!

- November 30: First Sunday of Advent and Combined Worship at Augustana at 11 AM
- December 7: Christmas Caroling to homebound members and friends; gather at Augustana after worship, around 12:15 PM
- December 14: Santa Lucia celebration in 11 AM Worship at Augustana
- December 21: Longest Night service, 4 PM at Augustana with St. John's Episcopal Church
- December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE! Join us for worship: 4:30 PM (Augustana), 7 PM (Grace), or 10:30 PM (Augustana)
- December 28: Lessons and Carols in worship
- January 4: Epiphany Sunday



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*(Save the Dates—Continued from Page 3)*

**Out of the Blue devotional reflections:** Our Advent devotional started early this year, and many of you have been following along! Send us photos of your “found object” Jesse Tree or check out social media to see what others have done. It’s not too late to pick up a copy and follow along for the entire Advent and Christmas season. Here’s what’s coming up...

**Week of November 23: Unexpected Alliances—The Story of Rahab** Read: Joshua 2:1-24, 6:24-25. Consider: What unexpected alliances in our lives can lead us deeper into God’s story? Find: Something you use to welcome others, like a candle you light at the dinner table when there are guests, a pan you use for baking a favorite dish, or your good linens. Place it near your Jesse tree.

**Week of November 30: Come What May—The Story of Ruth** Read: Ruth 1:1-18. Consider: When has the love of someone beyond your biological family made a difference in your life? Find: Something that you would take on a trip, like an atlas, snacks, camping equipment, or a spare tire. Place it near your Jesse tree.

**Week of December 7: Brokenness Reclaimed—The Story of Bathsheba** Read: 2 Samuel 11:2-27a. Consider: When has God taken a catastrophe in your life and found a way to bless you? Find: Something broken you still care about, like a piece of jewelry waiting for repair, a beloved stuffed animal with a rip, a favorite sweater beginning to unravel. Place it near your Jesse tree.

**Week of December 14: Silence Speaks—The Story of Elizabeth and Zechariah** Read: Luke 1:57-80. Consider: How can we learn, share, and identify God’s work with those older or younger than ourselves? Find: Something you’re willing to speak up for, like a branch from nature, a photo of people you care about, or a news article about a cause important to you. Place it near your Jesse tree.

**Week of December 21: A New Song—The Story of Mary** Read: Luke 1:46-55. Consider: Where do you see the themes of Mary’s Magnificat in Jesus’ life and teaching? In your own life? Find: Something that sparks joy for you, even in the midst of hard times, like a program from a special event, a memento from a special occasion, a photo of a person who brings you joy, or your baptismal candle. Place it near your Jesse tree.

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*(Save the Dates—Continued from Page 4)*

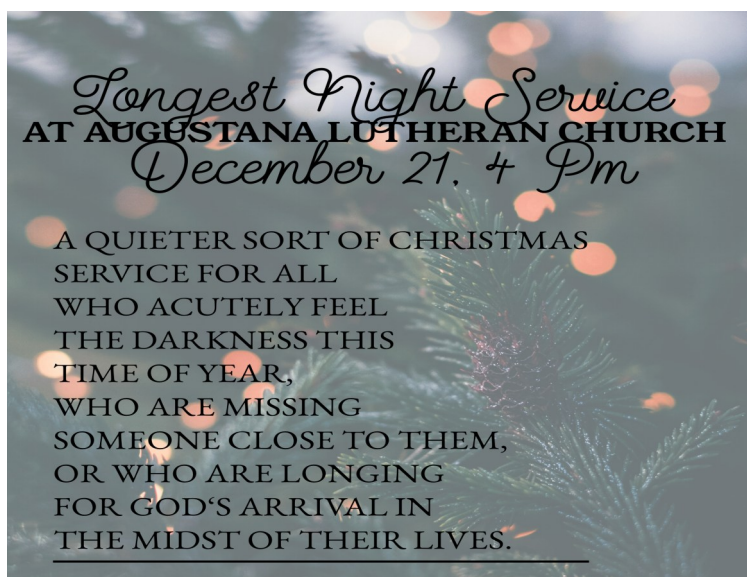
**Christmas, December 25: Growing in God** Read: Luke 2:1-20. Consider: Which stories have captured your attention this Advent? How might you carry their lessons beyond Christmas into a new season? Find: Something that points to new life or a baby, like a toy or baby item, a flower or bud, a new greeting from an old friend. Place it near your Jesse tree. Leave your tree up for the 12 days of Christmas, until Epiphany on January 6. Take time to look back on what you've added. What do these items say about your history? Can they plot a course through your journey of faith this season?

***See our devotional for more reflections.***

**Fa la la la! Christmas Caroling, December 7!** Join us for Christmas caroling to our homebound members and friends on December 7, after worship at Augustana. Meet at Augustana at 12:15 PM. We can carpool from there. No singing necessary—bring some jingle bells and your smiling face! Ugly sweaters, Santa hats, and friends are welcome! *please.*

**Santa Lucia Celebration at Augustana, December 14:** All are invited to join Augustana for their annual celebration of Santa Lucia, in 11 AM worship on December 14. The kids will lead the story as we hear the tale of Lucia and celebrate the coming light of Christ.

**Longest Night service, December 21, 4 PM:** Our Longest Night service, held on or around the winter solstice each year, is a quieter sort of Christmas service. It is especially for those who acutely feel the darkness at this time of year, who are missing someone they've lost during the holidays, or who long for God's healing and presence. It's also just a great way to focus on the heart of the Christmas promise—God with US—without all of the hustle and bustle. Join us at 4 PM at Augustana on December 21 for quiet, scripture, prayer, and song.





December 7 - Advent 2	December 14 - Advent 3	December 21 - Advent 4	December 28 - 1st Sunday of Christmas
Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

*But when you pray,  
go away by yourself,  
shut the door behind you,  
and pray to your Father in private.  
Then your Father,  
who sees everything,  
will reward you.  
~ Matthew 6:6 NLT*



## **PRAYER LIST**

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

### **Health Concerns**

Ken Davis  
Sister Nora Frost  
Barbara Hillyer

### **Other concerns**

Military Service Members

Family and friends who grieve  
the loss of Nick Ermis

## December Fellowship Opportunities

### FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

**Wednesday, December 3 ~ 9 AM**

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

### LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH Changed to Wednesday, December 24 ~ 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, December 22.*

**\* God's Gifts Pantry**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays ~**  
**10-11 AM**

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

## December HAPPENINGS

**Sunday, December 7 -**

Christmas Caroling

**Tuesday, December 9 -**

Augustana Church Council Meeting

**Thursday, December 11 -**

God's Gifts Pantry

**Friday, December 12 -**

Scholarship Deadline (WINTER)

**Sunday, December 21 -**

Longest Night at Grace

**Sunday, December 22-**

Newsletter Deadline

**Tuesday, December 23-**

God's Gifts Pantry

**Wednesday, December 24-**

Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Cafe

**Thursday, December 25-**

CHRISTMAS—Office Closed

## DECEMBER 2025 SERVER SCHEDULE

### December 7 – Advent 1

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

### December 14 – Advent 2

*Assisting Minister:* Nancy Tinder  
*Lector:* Jerry Duck  
*Server:* Cayden Abner  
*Technology Server:* Randy Tinder  
*Ushers:* Dave & Janet Ermis

### December 21 – Advent 3

*Assisting Minister:* Maralee Macumber  
*Lector:* Maralee Macumber  
*Server:* George Scupham  
*Technology Server:* Mark Moyer  
*Ushers:* Jerry & Judy Duck

### December 28 – Christ the King

*Assisting Minister:* Mark Moyer  
*Lector:* Nancy Tinder  
*Server:* Leah Moyer  
*Technology Server:* Randy Tinder  
*Ushers:* Emily Moyer

### **December 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!

## December Altar Flowers



December 7– Available

December 14 – Nancy and Randy Tinder

December 21– Sister Nora  
In memory of Jack Frost

December 28– 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 November 26, 2025	
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$128,947.00	\$82,823.76
November Monthly Budget Requirement	November Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,940.00	\$4,581.00
DECEMBER Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$11,940.00	\$131.00
November Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	November Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
37	9

## **Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of November 11, 2025**

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

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

**\*Financial reports** October report was not available.

October and November financial reports to be approved at

Explained financial reports to new members.

Reports were unanimously approved.

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

Alex will be ending her position as music director at the end of December.

We will need to begin searching for a replacement as well as for substitutes.

### **\*Old Business:**

We discussed the Fishbaugh Fund

Doris is looking into any bylaws pertaining to this.

Pastor Emily emphasized the need to very carefully consider any use of the principal of this fund – the Synod has layers we can consult.

Briefly discussed e-connect meeting on January 22.

Blessing Bags will be distributed on Nov. 15th, 50-60 bags already prepared.

### **\*New Business:**

Mark shared letter from Stacy Fann regarding “prayground”

Discussed the need to update Pioneer Faith's lease

Randy brought up need for someone to be in charge of locking up weekly, suggested to be monthly.

Sign up sheet will be made.

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





## Take-Along Page

188 People  
Served in November

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

### **God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help**

**Thursday, December 9** and **Thursday, December 23** 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) - no glass jars  
Cake mixes and frosting  
Pudding - Jello  
Cookies (individually wrapped)  
Juice - no glass jars  
Non-dairy milk

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

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

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3 9 AM– Breakfast Club @ Perkins	4 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	5	6	
7 11 AM-Worship 12:15 PM- Christmas Caroling	8	9 6:30 PM- Augustana Council Meeting	10	11 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	12 Scholarship Deadline – WINTER	13	
14 11 AM-Worship	15	16	17	18 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	19	20	
21 11 AM-Worship Santa Lucia celebration 4 PM -Longest Night	22 * Newsletter Deadline	23 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry	24 Noon– Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Café	25 OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS	26	27	
28 11 AM-Worship	29	30	31				

**Augustana Lutheran Church**

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Website: [www.augustanaelkhart.org](http://www.augustanaelkhart.org)

**Augustana Mission Statement:**

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