



— October 2026 —
Augustana News

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“The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none.”
-The Freedom of a Christian, Martin Luther

At the end of this month we will mark the 509th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation on Reformation Sunday (October 25), so it's a good time to be reminded of some words from our good old pal Martin Luther (is there ever a bad time, really?!). This quote is from one of Martin Luther's best known writings. It is a fairly good summary of what the Good News of God's love in Jesus means to us Christians of the Lutheran variety.

Christians are made entirely free by God's goodness and God's work in Jesus: free from being divinely punished for our mess-ups, free from that little voice in our heads that tells us we are never enough, free from keeping up our image, free from guilt, free from fear, free from death...all by God's love and grace for us, and nothing we ourselves need to do. We just trust in that love and freely live.

In Luther's day, this was a rather revolutionary message. I think it's one we still need to hear today. I've heard a few of you lately discuss how difficult it can be to say “no.” In smaller congregations, with a lot of work to do, we start to believe that it all relies on us, that it couldn't happen without us, that the only way things get done is to push harder, do more, and work like crazy. But Luther's theology reminds us of another reality. In the end, the work that really matters is God's. Living as Lutheran Christians in the world begins with trusting that this is the bottom line. When we do, this message transforms how we treat ourselves, believing that we are enough just as we are, trusting in God to provide when we cannot, believing in God's love and mercy for us even and especially when we feel we don't deserve it. That is free!

And only then can we get to the second half of Luther's quote:

“The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”
-The Freedom of a Christian, Martin Luther

When we start to understand that the real work is up to God, that it is not our work that earns us God's love or God's favor, only then are we truly able to turn in loving service to our neighbor. Only then are we confident, and loving, and rested enough to live for the sake of the world. Because that is why we are truly freed: not for our own sake, but for the sake of our neighbor. Freed to put God's grace in action, freed to love others AND ourselves, freed to continue the church's reforms to spread this Gospel good news farther and wider. And even over 500 years after the Protestant Reformation, rest assured there are reforms yet to come! But let us begin with trust and faith that before we do a thing, God is already at work.

Be free!
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.



DONATE

Fellowship Opportunities

First Wednesday Breakfast Club
Wednesday, October 7th ~ 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, October 4th**
 for our First Sunday Dinner after
 worship. Stay for food, fun &
 fellowship!



A NEW BIBLE STUDY: MONEY MONEY MONEY!

Our 4 week Bible study in October explores what Jesus has to say about a topic that's sometimes hard to discuss, but is always present in our lives: Money. What do we do with our money? What does Jesus have to say about how we spend or save money? Why and how do we give it away? It's more complicated that it used to be! What do his teachings mean for us today? This is actually one of the subjects Jesus teaches about most. Join us in the Luther Room at Grace at 6 PM, Wednesdays in October, beginning October 7.



REFORMATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 25!

Wear your reformation red and join us for a special Sunday of worship when we look backward and forward; back at where our Lutheran heritage has come from and forward to where it is taking us.



All Saints Day is November 1

On All Saints Day we remember those saints we've known and loved who have gone before us in faith. Bring a picture or memento for our "All Saints Altar" and light a candle for someone who you have loved and lost. All members and friends of our congregation who have died in the past year will be remembered in prayer this day. If there is someone you wish to include, make sure the church office has their name. There will also be a special opportunity for musical celebration of our saints with our closing hymn that day. If you play an instrument of *any kind* and would like to participate, please speak with our accompanist, Ethan Ford, or with Pastor Emily.

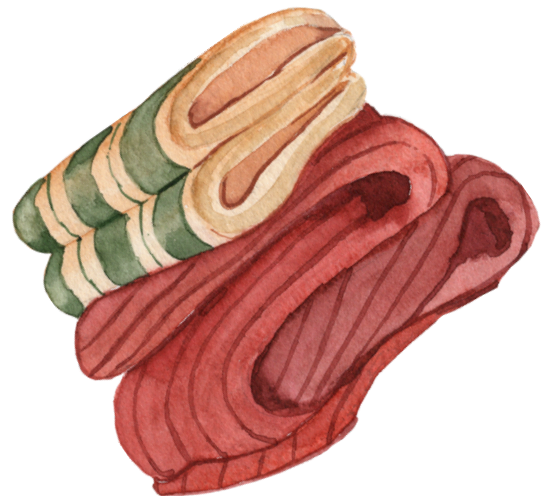


Blessing Bags, October 10:

We will be on the Plaza in downtown Elkhart 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!

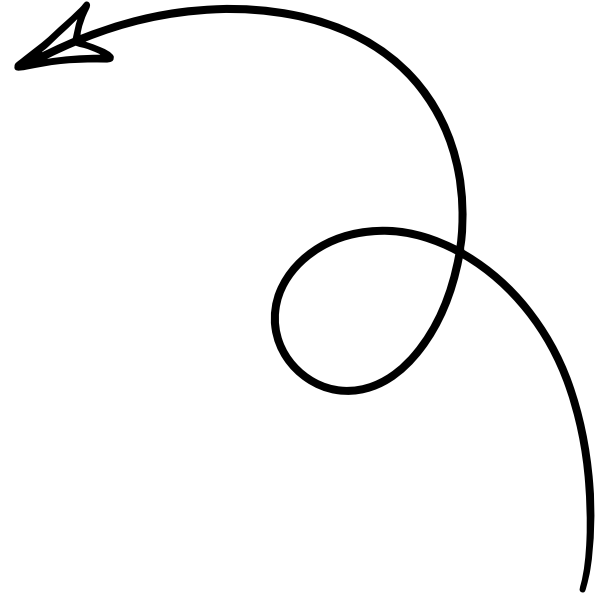


Pet blessing on the Plaza

sunday, oct. 4, 1:30 pm at civic plaza, elkhart
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.



young adult group
october 21, 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



October 2026 Servers Schedule

October 4 – Pentecost 19

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Mark Moyer
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

October 11 – Pentecost 20

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder
Lector: Diane Erickson
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Randy Tinder
Ushers: Deb Rowland

October 18 – Pentecost 21

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Maralee Macumber
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

October 25– Pentecost 22

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

October Altar Guild

Nancy Tinder
helpers - Deb & Heidi Paston

*Please let the office know of any changes.

Children's Church

October 4 - Diane E. and Linda I.
October 11 - Emily M. and Leah M./Dorothy M.
October 18 - Stacy F. and Brian F.
October 25 - Jane W. and a Friend!

October Altar Flowers



October 4 - Carol and Steve Reshan
in honor of Eloise and Leah Reshan

October 11 - Available

October 18 - Available

October 25 - Anonymous
To the Glory of God

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**

&

**209 PEOPLE SERVED IN
SEPTEMBER**

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

God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help - Thursday, October 8 and Thursday, October 22 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	
Boxed potatoes	*The following items are found at Dollar Tree: *
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Mac & Cheese with foil pack
Spaghetti or other pasta	Boxed cereals (any size or kind)
Canned spaghetti sauce (red)	Spaghetti-O's – pull top
Cake mixes and frosting	Pork n' Beans & Dogs – pull top
Pudding - Jell-O	Canned kid meals
Cookies (individually wrapped)	Bags or boxes of rice
Juice	Dinty Moore Stew
Shelf stable milk	Bags of beans
Cooking oil - butter	Tuna

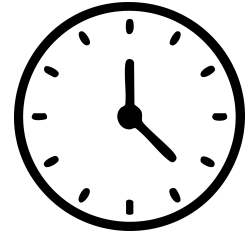
Cans with pop-tops are preferred, though we know many cans do not come that way.

NO EXPIRED FOOD

**THANK
YOU!**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	2	3
4 11 AM - Worship 12 PM - 1st Sunday Dinner 1:30 PM - Pet Blessing	5	6	7 9 AM- Breakfast Club @ Perkins 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace 6 PM - Bible Study @ Grace	8 10-11 AM - God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	9	10 9 AM - Distriubtion of Blessing Bags
11 11 AM - Worship	12	13	14 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace 6 PM - Bible Study @ Grace	15 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	16	17
18 11 AM - Worship	19 6:30 PM - Joint Council meeting at Grace	20	21 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace 6 PM - Bible Study @ Grace 6-8 PM - Young Adult Group @ St. John's	22 10-11 AM - God's Gifts Pantry Noon - Lunch Bunch @ Baker's Nook 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	23	24
25 11 AM - Worship <i>Reformation Sunday</i>	26	27	28 4 PM - Youth Group @ Grace 4:45 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace 6 PM - Bible Study @ Grace	29	30	31

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

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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