

Council Members

Maralee Macumber – President
574-606-6441 – cell

Diane Erickson – Vice President
574-370-5379 – cell

Dave Ermis – Secretary
574-220-1367 – cell

Randy Tinder – Treasurer
574-370-5703 – cell
(non-council member)

Jerry Duck
574-532-9628 – cell

Nancy Tinder
574-294-3910 – home

Gunnar Erickson
269-641-2182 – home

Chuck Miller
574-849-1823 – cell

Mark Moyer
574-848-0626 – cell

Gina Iannarelli
574-596-8600 – cell

Augustana Call Committee

Brian & Staci Fann (Co-Chairs)

Maralee Macumber

Janie Williams

Nancy Tinder

Doris Koontz

Diane Erickson

Interim Minister

Sister Nora Frost
574-226-1412 - cell

Augustana News

December 2023



Augustana Lutheran Church

1133 Kilbourn Street ~ Elkhart, IN ~ Phone: 574-294-3823

Website: www.augustanaelkhart.org. Email: secretary@augustana.comcastbiz.net

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 8am-Noon; Tuesday 10:30am-1:30pm

Dear Friends in Christ:

Advent begins on the Sunday closest to Nov. 30th (St. Andrew's Day). It is the beginning of the liturgical year. The Advent season in Western churches is observed in most Christian denominations as a time of waiting and preparation for both the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. In many Eastern churches there is a similar period of prayer and preparation but lasts 40 days similar to our Lenten time of prayer and repentance. (Lent is my favorite season of the Church year with Advent taking a close second.) During the first two Sundays (weeks) we look forward to Christ's second coming. We use two blue or purple candles for these two weeks. The last two Sundays (weeks) look backward to remember Christ's first coming as a baby. The third candle is always a rose (pink) color for Gaudete Sunday...the Sunday of joy. The last candle on the fourth Sunday of Advent will be blue or purple. This year will be a little different in that Dec. 24th in the morning will be the 4th Sunday of Advent and when we gather in the evening, we will celebrate Christmas Eve. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels. We use the three-year Lectionary as do the Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and many other protestant churches; and this is year B so most of the Gospel readings will come from the Gospel according to Mark. (The Gospel readings for year A which we just completed is Matthew and year C is from Luke.)

While the four weeks of Advent are somewhat complicated by shopping, holiday parties, lights and decorating, joyful carols on all the radio stations and cutting down the perfect tree or at least taking the tree out of the box and placing it in the perfect place in your house, Advent was meant to be a time of prayer and fasting, and it is the perfect season to take time either as an individual or as a family to read scripture (week one – Hope/The Prophecy Candle – Isaiah 9; week two – Peace /The Bethlehem Candle – Isaiah 40; week three – Joy/ Shepherd's Candle – Matthew 2; week four – Love/ Angel's Candle – John 3. Or, if you want

(Continued on Page 2)

Augustana Mission Statement: *As the Body of Christ, we are called to Love All, Serve All, Welcome All.*

(Dear Friends in Christ - Continued from Page 1)

to have a different scripture each day, go to Advent Bible Verses at BibleStudyTools.com. The four candles, one for each week, represent something different (hope, faith, joy, and peace). It is believed that the Advent Wreath first appeared in Germany in the early 1600. The early wreaths included a candle for each day of Advent with different colored candle representing the four Sundays. Having your own personal or family wreath can be a very important tradition of your Advent preparation and prayer time.

Then there is the Advent calendar. My aunt and my parents made sure from an early age that we had an Advent Calendar in our home where a window each day could be opened to reveal a scripture passage or picture depicting something about the coming of King Jesus. The German practice of marking off each day of Advent was a German Lutheran practice instituted in the early 19th century and quickly spread to other countries and denominations. Unfortunately, it most recently has been secularized and behind each day instead of reading an Advent prophecy from Scripture or seeing a picture of a scene from the nativity story you may find chocolate, perfume, toys, coffee, beauty aids, or even liquor...not the purpose of Advent or the Advent Calendar.

Beginning on December 3rd you will have the opportunity to pick up for yourself and your family an Advent Calendar "The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed." You will also have the opportunity to pick up an Advent Study for you and your family to use at home each Sunday of Advent. There are assigned scripture passages and a study followed by reflection questions. Each of the four studies explore one way we encounter God, from revelation to proclamation. Both the Calendar and the Study have been prepared by ELCA World Hunger.

My prayer for each of us during this Advent Season leading us to Christmas and Epiphany is that God will stir your heart and help you to feel God's love in new and meaningful ways each new day.

Blessings,
Sister Nora

Prayer List

Please inform the office or Sister Nora of prayer requests, praises, or updates.

In Mourning

Barb Parker family

Surgery Recovery

Gary Moberg
Tim Cunningham
Tracy Thompson
Becky
Patty Spicknall
Pastor Joe
Jeri Hudson
Fred Dunfee
Christy Yarnall

Health Concerns

John Metz
Lisa Butt
Katlin Williams
Roy Powell
Wini Rogers
Matt, friend of John Metz
Dale Richie
Arlene Doring
Steve & Debby Riedenour
Deborah Trapp
Janet
Mike
Jim
Terri
Chris
Mary Harder
Kim's wife
Martin McCullen

Health Concerns, continued

Gracie
Renee Zimmerman
Sharon Butler
Rhonda
Teresa Berket

Other concerns

Samantha
Victims of war, violence,
natural disasters
Pioneer Faith Ministries
Elkhart Schools students & staff
Council & Call Committee

Praises

Julia

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2023



**December 3rd –
1st Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
I Corinthians 1:3-9
St. Mark 13:24-37

**December 10th –
2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
St. Mark 1:1-8

**December 17th –
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
I Thessalonians 5:16-24
St. John 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 24th –
4th Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-12, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
St. Luke 1:26-38

**December 24th –
Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
St. Luke 2:1-20

**December 31st –
1st Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
St. Luke 2:22-40

Thank you...

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for remembering me during clergy appreciation month with the lovely card, kind words, and generous gift cards.

It is an honor for me to serve with you here at Augustana. May God continue to bless His ministry now and into the future.

~ Sister Nora

A heartfelt thank you to those who have offered prayers for my ankle healing. I am now able to drive having positive bone growth; however, physical therapy and healing continues. As I remove my name from the prayer list, I trust that Holy Spirit will prompt you to pray for me and that you will not delay and be obedient in doing so.

~ Julia, Augustana Secretary

Pastoral Contact Information

Sister Nora Frost, Interim Pastor
574-226-1412 ~ srnfrost@gmail.com

Sister Nora's Office Hours

Monday 9AM – Noon ~ Augustana
Tuesday, 9AM – Noon ~ Grace
Wednesday, 9AM – Noon ~ Augustana
Thursday, 9AM – Noon ~ Grace
Friday, 9AM – 10:30AM ~ Grace
10:30AM – Noon ~ Augustana

Saturday & Sunday ~ Call for an appointment.

(There are meetings on some mornings, as well as Zoom meetings, so please call in advance to make sure that Sister Nora is in before coming.)

Please Call the Church Office or Sister Nora Directly if You are Hospitalized or Having Surgery.

Pastoral care is a ministry of Pastors and Deacons and one of the ways healing can be offered to the body of Christ. It is important for you (or someone else if you are not able) to contact the **Church office (574-294-3823) or Sister Nora directly (574-226-1412)**. When we are sick, have had an accident or having surgery, we need not only physical healing but spiritual healing as well. These are times when your church family can be holding you in prayer which sometimes is the best and most important thing which we can do for each other.

PLEASE allow your Interim Minister and members of your church family be part of your healing process.

CHRISTMAS MORNING

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him — these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.
— 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10 NIV

Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of October 10, 2023

Present: Maralee Macumber, Diane Erickson, Dave Ermis, Randy Tinder, Jerry Duck, Nancy Tinder, Chuck Miller, Gunnar Erickson, Mark Moyer, Sister Nora Frost

Minutes from the September council meeting were presented & unanimously approved.

***Financial reports** from September were presented. ELCA Benevolence report was discussed. Our giving will remain the same. Reports were unanimously approved.

***Sister Nora's reports** were presented.

***Unfinished Business:**

Call Process Review & Update. No word yet on the Call Process.

Covenant Meeting Maralee will send out the Covenant for Council to look at; as of yet, Grace has not talked about it with their council.

Office Copy Machine. Three companies will be presenting their proposals; two on Oct. 18 and one on Oct. 25.

***New Business:**

Thrivent. Cheryl Avery of Thrivent went over our investments and suggested we keep things the way they are now. It will be re-evaluated next year.

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

Augustana Council
will convene on
Monday, December 11
6:30 PM
for the next meeting.

**Council
Meeting
Update**

Advent Opportunities ~ Prepare, Save the Dates, & Plan to Attend

Augustana Sunday Choir Rehearsals

10-10:30 AM on
December 3 & 10
Please join us!



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St. Lucia Rehearsals

12 PM – December 10
10 AM – December 17

**25¢ Sale ~ 10 AM - Noon
Saturday, December 9**



Please bring nearly-new items that a child may buy for a parent, grandparent, or sibling or that a parent may buy for their child to Augustana before **Friday, December 8.**

Check the narthex for a listing of requested items. Place items by the office or in the narthex marked "25¢ Sale."
Helpers will be needed on the 9th as we will offer gift wrapping.

Sock, Scarf and Mitten/Glove Tree for Blessing Bags

Be watching for this tree outside the narthex. We will begin collecting these items during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons to be used for our next Blessing Bag event.



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Longest Night (Blue Christmas) at Grace Sunday, December 17th – 3 PM

For some us, the Christmas season is not all joy and happiness, especially if you have lost a loved one. The service is for everyone in our community who is feeling grief and sorrow during this season. Come and worship with others who are experiencing your deep sadness.

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Holden Evening Prayer. . .

Wednesday, December 20th – 6:30 PM

Area churches are being encouraged to attend and participate. Please let your friends and neighbors know that this quiet reflective service is available. All are welcome. The service is about 40 minutes in length.



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Notice to our College Students

The Augustana Winter Endowment Fund Scholarship Grant Application is available now. Contact the church office if you are interested in applying. The absolute deadline for receiving the completed application back in the church office is **no later than Wednesday, December 13, 2023.**



Celebrate & Gather with One Another

December Birthdays

- 6th – Melanie Watson
- 7th – Tim Ball
- 11th – Christine Moore
- 12th – Janie Williams
- 14th – Deb Ludlow
- 15th – Andy Mills
- 18th – Tim Cunningham
- 19th – Samantha Barker
- 27th – Jerry Duck
- 29th – Marilyne Mann
- 30th – Jennifer Cunningham
- 30th – Jack Watson

December Anniversaries

- 17th – Jon & Ann Howard
- 20th – Andy & Heidi Scupham

Please let the church office know if your name is missing on our birthday or anniversary list!

December Altar Flowers

December 3rd – Available

December 10th – Given by Nancy & Randy Tinder
In Honor of their daughters, Emily & Laura

December 17th – Given by Sister Nora
In Memory of her father, Jack Frost

December 24th – Given by Gina Iannarelli
In Memory of loved ones who have passed
In Honor of the Iannarelli Family

December 31st – Given by Mary Lou Cassel
In Memory of Richard Cassel



The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is now posted on the office window! Please sign up and use the envelope provided for the \$25 per Sunday. The office places the order/s. Thank you!

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AUGUSTANA BREAKFAST CLUB

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 9 AM
(Always the first Wednesday)

Meet at Perkins on Cassopolis Street.
Call Deb Rowland for reservations – 574-596-2776

LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Come and join your Augustana friends for lunch at the **Golden Egg Pancake House** on Nappanee Street across from the Drive and Shine Car wash. We will meet **at noon on December 28th**. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. Phone your reservation and the number coming to the church office by Tuesday, December 26th.

December 2023 Server Schedule

December 3rd – Advent 1

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Jerry Duck
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Dorothy Moyer
Ushers: The Watson Family

December 10th – Advent 2

Assisting Minister: Scott Watson
Lector: Scott Watson
Server: Jack Watson
Technology Server: Leah Moyer
Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

December 17th – Advent 3

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Melanie Watson
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

December 24th – Advent 4

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Jennifer Ball
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Jack Watson
 4:30: Leah Moyer 10:30 Mark Moyer
Ushers: The Moyer Family

December 31st – Christmas 1

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Maralee Macumber
Server: Dorothy Moyer
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Jerry & Judy Duck

December Altar Guild

Heidi Paston & Deb Rowland

Reminder:

*If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and let the church office know who the replacement is.
Thank you!*

September Financial/ Attendance Report

[Fiscal Year Runs Feb. 1 thru Jan. 31]
 **Information thru November 30, 2023

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Funds to General Fund
\$119,519.60	\$80,288.36
November Monthly Budget	November Average Atten. Sunday In-Person
\$19,141.00	35
November Offering to General Fund	November Average Atten. Sunday Facebook
\$5,377.00	34
November Weekly Budget	Noisy Offering Year-to-Date
\$4,785.25	\$243.00



The 2024 Giving Envelopes will be available for you to pick up in the Narthex.

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News from ELCA

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Pathways Retreat is offering several retreats this winter: Living that Matters for Men, Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art, and weekly yoga. Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

Breathing in Harmony with Sacred Time:

A Yoga Practice for Every Body - Mondays, 4:30-5:30 PM

Join us as we use yoga to begin the new Christian year with Advent! Using Jan Richardson's book "Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas," our practice will include lighting Advent candles and setting intentions for a contemplative Christmas season.

Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art

December 8, 3-4:30 PM; January 20 & February 17 10-11:30 AM

Zentangle-inspired Art is the practice of mindfully drawing images from repetitive and structured patterns. It becomes a form of artistic meditation as one becomes completely engrossed in making each pattern. There are no mistakes, only opportunities in Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art!

The December class will include making Christmas cards!

Living that Matters for Men

Saturday, December 9, 8 AM-Noon

Men, what kind of man do you want to be and how can you live a life that matters?

In this half day retreat, we will:

- examine the scripts we've been given;
- explore differing expressions of masculinity;
- reconsider our purpose and aims in life.

This retreat draws from *Living That Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith* (Herald Press, 2023), which each participant will receive.

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It's not too late to give a gift that makes a difference!

November 28th was Giving Tuesday, a day when people all over the globe tapped into the power of generosity. If you made a donation to ELCA Good Gifts, thank you.

Even if you didn't get a chance to make a gift on Giving Tuesday, **there's still time to [give through ELCA Good Gifts this season](#) and make an impact in the lives of people around the world.**

God's love is a gift, given through Christ. Thank you.



Join us each Sunday morning for Fellowship
in the Narthex before & after Worship

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>10AM-Choir Rehearsal 11AM-Worship with Noisy Offering 12:30PM-Joint Worship/Music Committee at Grace</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM - Breakfast Club at Perkins</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 8</p> <p>Deadline for 25¢ Sale Items</p>	<p>2 9</p> <p>10 AM - Noon - 25¢ Sale</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10AM-Choir Rehearsal 11AM-Worship 12 PM- St. Lucia Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM - Augustana Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Winter College Scholarship Deadline</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10-11 AM - God's Gift Food Pantry</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10AM- St. Lucia Rehearsal 11AM-Worship Saint Lucia Festival 3PM-Longest Night at Grace</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Newsletter Article Deadline</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 AM-12 PM - Ministerium Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 PM - Holden Evening Prayer at Augustana</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10AM-Choir Rehearsal 11AM-Worship 4:30PM-Youth Service at Augustana <u>Candlelight</u> 7:00PM-Grace 10:30PM-Augustana</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10-11 AM - God's Gift Food Pantry NOON - Augustana Lunch Bunch - Golden Egg</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>11AM-Worship Service of Lessons and Carols</p>						

Happy
New Year!



Take-Along Page

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 14th and Thursday, December 28th will be our next sack distributions. So many families need help this holiday season, especially with company layoffs. Your donations are very much appreciated! Please bring items to the church, placing them in the barrels by the office. The following items are needed:

- Canned chicken
- Ritz or other crackers in sleeves
- Pork and Beans
- Boxes or bags of rice
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Peanut Butter
- Spaghetti or other pasta
- Canned spaghetti sauce (red)
- Cookies (individually wrapped)
- Toilet paper

*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.

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