



Augustana News

February 2024

Dear Friends in Christ;

Ash Wednesday is Feb 14th and every year we hear the same Gospel passage where Jesus warns us not to be a “show off.” Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18, “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen. I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.” We are being told not to draw attention to ourselves, not to flaunt our praying, fasting, and almsgiving. Specifically, Jesus says we should not look gloomy, or dismal about the whole thing. On Ash Wednesday we begin the holy season of Lent, a time of repentance and penance with these three principal acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We must remember that prayer, fasting, and almsgiving were highly regarded in Old Testament times, and they were considered necessary for anyone seeking a devote Jewish life. So, Jesus cites these exercises as extremely important and states how they should be practiced. He even warns us that if they are done for the motive of being seen, recognized, and esteemed by other people, they indeed have lost their value for ourselves and have not gained us any more value in God’s eyes.

Jesus cautions against the methods and motives that some use when praying and fasting with the purpose of gaining the praise and esteem of others. Almsgiving is a highly acceptable form of self-denial and staves off the giver’s greed, possessiveness, and selfishness; and when done out of true compassion and love, it actually serves to help those in need. Remember “what we do to these least we do it to our Lord.” So what we give away with a true and contrite heart is what we invest in heaven...in the work of the Kingdom of God. Even though as Lent begins we ask God’s special guidance in our practice of prayers, fasting, and good works, we must always remember that religious practice is never enough. Our genuine spiritual practices during Lent and hopefully throughout our entire life demands our continual openness to God’s will in our life and a willingness to be challenged to move beyond our comfort zone. A Good Samaritan may well miss our Sunday morning worship service or a Wednesday Lenten worship while attending to a stranger in need while the one who passed by will arrive on time. However, we must ask ourselves, “Is compassion for someone who is suffering more important than punctuality?” Love for God and service to our neighbors are inseparable. The situations and events in our daily lives that cause us pause and then make us turn our back on our brothers and sisters means we turn our back on God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit who guides us.

(Continued on Page 2)

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

Prayer

~ ~ ~

Fasting

~ ~ ~

Good Works

(Dear Friends—Continued from Page 1)

So what we invest in the three religious practices of Lent (Prayer, Fasting, and good works) helps us to become more conscious that it is God who calls to us through the cries of the needy. Our response to them is our response to God.

1. Use the daily readings as found elsewhere in the newsletter to help you focus during each day of Lent.
2. Use Luther's Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer (also found in the newsletter) each day.
3. Fast from something which distracts your time, uses money which unwisely, or from a behavior which is harmful to you or someone else.
4. Commit to attending Sunday morning worship, Wednesday Lenten worship, and Lenten Book Study.
5. Save money from something that you spend money on each day or each day and give it to a particular cause or place in the Noisy Offering.

Blessings,
Sister Nora

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

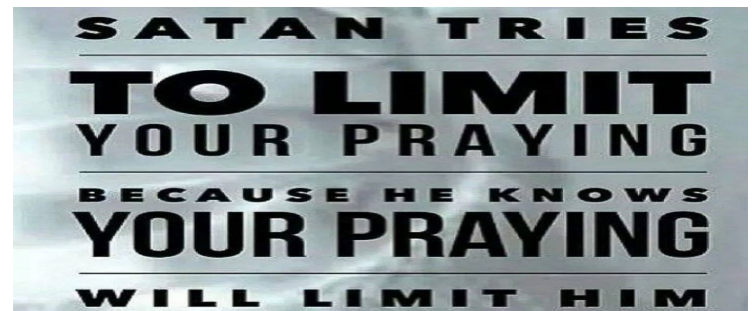
Saturday & Sunday ~ Call for an appointment.

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 or Sister Nora directly. 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.



PRAYER LIST

Please contact us with updates, praises, & requests.

Surgery Recovery

Dave Ermis
Melanie Watson
Rick Cassel
Lezlee Carnahan
Don
Tim Cunningham
Tracy Thompson
Becky
Patty Spicknall
Pastor Joe
Fred Dunfee

Health Concerns

Jon Howard
Deb Ludlow
Roy Powell
Penny Duck
John Metz
Katlin Williams
Wini Rogers
Matt, friend of John Metz
Arlene Doring
Deborah Trapp
Janet
Mike
Jim
Chris

Health Concerns, Continued

Mary Harder
Charles
Kim's wife
Martin McCullen
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



February 4 - Epiphany 5	February 11 - Transfiguration of Our Lord	February 14 - Ash Wednesday	February 18 - Lent 1	February 25 - Lent 2
Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-20c I Corinthians 9:16-23 St. Mark 1:29-39	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 St. Mark 9:2-9	Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 I Peter 3:18-22 St. Mark 1:9-15	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 St. Mark 8:31-38

LENTEN READINGS BY DAY

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Feb. 14th- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 □ Feb. 15th – Luke 9:22-25 □ Feb. 16th – Matthew 9:14-15 □ Feb. 17th – Luke 5:27-32 □ Feb 18th – Mark 1:12-15 □ Feb. 19th – Matthew 25:31-46 □ Feb. 20th – Matthew 6:7-15 □ Feb. 21st – Luke 11:29-30 □ Feb. 22nd -Matthew 16:13-19 □ Feb. 23rd – Matthew 5:20-26 □ Feb 24th – Matthew 5: 43-48 □ Feb. 25th – Mark 9:2-10 □ Feb. 26th- Luke 6:36-38 □ Feb. 27th – Matthew 23:1-12 □ Feb. 28th – Matthew 20:17-28 □ Feb. 29th – Luke 16:31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ March 1st – Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 □ March 2nd – Luke 15:1-3,11-32 □ March 3rd – John 2:19 □ March 4th – Luke 4:24-30 □ March 5th – Matthew 18:21-35 □ March 6th – Matthew 5:17-19 □ March 7th – Luke 11:14-23 □ March 8th – Mark 12:28-34 □ March 9th – Luke 18:9-14 □ March 10th – John 3:14-21 □ March 11th – John 4:43-54 □ March 12th – John 5:1-16 □ March 13th – John 5:17-30 □ March 14th – John 5:31-47 □ March 15th – John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 □ March 16th – John 7:40-53 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ March 17th – John 12:20-33 □ March 18th – John 8:1-11 □ March 19th – Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a □ March 20th – John 8:31-42 □ March 21st – John 8:51-59 □ March 22nd – John 10:31-42 □ March 23rd – John 11:45-56 □ March 24th – Mark 14:L1-15:47 □ March 25th – John 12:1-11 □ March 26th – John 13:21-33, 36-38 □ March 27th – Matthew 26:14-25 □ March 28th – John 13:1-15 □ March 29th – John 18:1-19:42 □ March 30th – Mark 16:1-7 □ March 31st – John 20:1-9 |
|--|---|---|

Luther's Morning Prayer

“I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

Luther's Evening Prayer

“I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

**FEBRUARY 2024
SERVER SCHEDULE**

February 4 – Epiphany 5

Assisting Minister: Scott Watson
Lector: Jerry Duck
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Janet Moyer & Deb Rowland

**February 11 –
Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Heidi Scupham
Server: Jack Watson
Technology Server: Dorothy Moyer
Ushers: The Watson Family

February 18 – Lent 1

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Jennifer Ball
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: The Moyer Family

February 25 – Lent 2

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

February Altar Guild

Jerry & Doris Koontz

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!*

FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 9 AM
(Always the first Wednesday)**

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

12th - Troy Nusbaum
13th - Cathy Davis
14th - Jill Scupham
15th - Michael Kindy
17th - Mary Lou Cassel

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

27th - Gunnar & Diane Erickson



February Altar Flowers

February 4 – Given by Sister Nora
In Memory of Lucile Frost

February 11 – In Honor of Liam Peterson

February 18 – In Memory & Honor of
Martin Luther

February 25 – Given by
Gunnar & Diane Erickson
In Celebration of their
59th Wedding Anniversary

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 February 29th**. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. Phone your reservation and the number coming to the church office by Tuesday, February 27th.

January Financial/ Attendance Report

[Fiscal Year Runs Feb. 1 thru Jan. 31]

**Information thru January 31, 2024

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Funds to General Fund
\$139,740.00	\$93,522.99
January Monthly Budget	January Average Atten. Sunday In-Person
\$8,123.40	28
January Offering to General Fund	January Average Atten. Sunday Facebook
\$5,952.00	41
January Weekly Budget	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$2,030.85	\$243.00



Members of Augustana, Thank you so much for the scholarships for college. Your generosity is such a blessing. Liam is taking a full load of classes which include choir and philosophy this semester. He is interested in theater and creative writing. Keegan is also taking a full load of classes including both the choir and the same philosophy class as Liam. He is pursuing philosophy as a possible major. Ask mom or dad when you see them, and they would be glad to share a short clip of the choir singing from our fall concert. We both play Ultimate Frisbee in our "spare time." The team will be traveling for a tournament over spring break. Keegan is working on campus. Once again, thank you for helping us with the cost of tuition at Beloit. We are enjoying our time there and hopefully will attend worship at Augustana in the summer. ~ Keegan and Liam Peterson

2024 Augustana Directory

The new Council has been determined, the directory will be updated! Soon, you will be contacted to verify your information. Each household listed in the directory will receive one copy.

Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of December 12, 2023

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

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

***Financial reports** from October were presented. Drop in giving & 2024 budget were discussed. Reports & new budget were unanimously approved.

***Sister Nora's reports** were presented. Council discussed all the great things Sister Nora does.

***Unfinished Business:**

Covenant Meeting. The Covenant with Grace would have to be approved and passed by both Councils.

Office Copy Machine. The new copier was delivered on December 14, 2023.

***New Business:**

The MSP to the ELCA website was discussed.

2024 Council Election. Jerry Duck, Nancy Tinder, & Maralee Macumber indicated they will allow their names to be on the ballot for a second term. We are still searching for new people to serve.

2024 Annual Meeting will be held January 21 with January 28 being the snow date.

Old sound equipment. Discussion regarding what to do with it.

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

“Forgiveness: A Lenten Study” by Marjorie Thompson.
Beginning February 13, 2024
Tuesdays, 1:30 PM at Grace ~ Thursdays, 6:30 PM at Augustana

This book has six brief chapters which address such questions as:

Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or, are there situations where Christians do not need to forgive?

Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?

Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?

How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

Using biblical examples and real-life situations, the author illustrates each chapter’s theme in an informatiivw and engaging way. There is a study guide at the back of the book for our group reflections and discussion.

The author is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA. She has served as the Director of the Pathways Center for Spiritual Leadership. Marjorie has exercised a ministry of teaching, writing, and spiritual guidance for many years and is the author of the best-selling book, “Soul Feast.”

Let Sister Nora know you would like a book. The cost is \$8.00 each.

Lenten Season Opportunities ~
Prepare, Save the Dates, & Plan to Attend

Tuesday, February 13, 5-6:30PM ~ Shrove Tuesday ~ Pancake Supper at Grace
Please come and fellowship together. Free will offering accepted.

Wednesday, February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday

Ashes to Go will be available 7-10AM at Grace and 5-6PM at Augustana

Ash Wednesday Services will be held at the following times/locations:

Noon at Grace

4:00 PM at Grace

6:30 PM at Augustana

Friday, February 16 ~ Grace Game Night - Held every Third Friday


All are invited to attend this evening of fun & fellowship. There is always a theme and a meal. Look for details in the bulletin insert regarding what to bring.

Midweek Lenten Services will be held Each Wednesday, February 21-March 20

4:00 PM at Grace

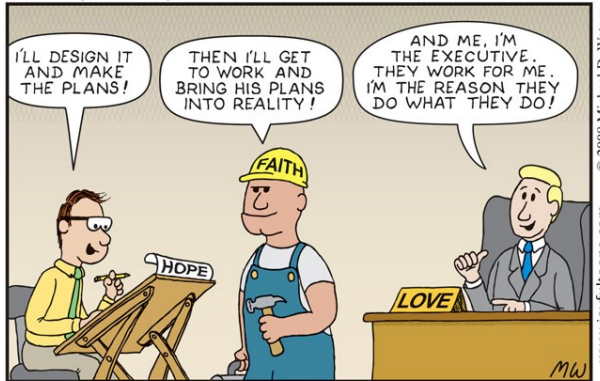
6:30 PM at Augustana

Be sure to look at the February 2024 calendar for other opportunities!



Lenten Calendars & Study Booklets will be available to pick up **Sunday, February 4** in the narthex. Please note that there are a few large print booklets available this year.


FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. - 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NIV

Sock, Scarf and Mitten/Glove Tree for Blessing Bags

Sunday, February 11 is the last day we will collect these items to be used for our next Blessing Bag event. Adult and children's items can both be used during these cold winter months by those who are cold. Please place them on the tree outside the narthex.




Some churches in Elkhart are organizing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults. Volunteer teachers are needed for the next session of classes, **March 5 - May 2024**, meeting 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.

Please contact Sueann VonGuten, vonalter2@gmail.com or 574-612-3108, with your interest or questions. Approximately 20 teachers are needed to teach all of the classes. If you have friends who might be interested, encourage them to call or write. Please consider helping your neighbors learn English.

ELCA NEWS



Greetings,

How as Lutherans should we understand our relationship to civic life — including government — as individuals and as a church body? After studying the questions for the past three years, a social statement task force has posted a draft social statement on civic life and faith.

Social statements are important documents because they govern church teaching and policies, and support ministries. They also serve as discernment tools for ELCA members as they think about social issues such as civic life.

Between now and Sept. 30, 2024, you are invited to study and give feedback on the draft by filling out an [online survey](#) or attending a hearing in your synod, as available. To access the draft and the survey, and to find information on how to host a hearing in your synod, go to www.elca.org/civicsandfaith. [Note: Going to this site, you can read or print the statement which is 55 pages. You can also print the survey and mail it in if you do not complete it online. If you need a hard copy, ask Sister Nora.]

After the feedback period has closed, the task force will revise the draft with attention to the public input and submit a proposed version of the social statement to the ELCA Church Council, which will vote on sending it to the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly for consideration. If adopted at the assembly by a two-thirds margin, the social statement will become official social teaching of this church.

May God's Spirit, which seeks the well-being of all in civic life, guide you in your reading, reflection, and response.

Rev. Roger Willer
Director, Theological Ethics
Rev. Carmelo Santos
Director, Theological Diversity and Engagement

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ 8AM-Noon
Tuesday ~ 10:30AM-1:30PM
Wednesday ~ 8AM-Noon
Thursday ~ 8AM-Noon
Friday ~ OFFICE CLOSED

GOD'S GIFT FOOD PANTRY

Sack of food & personal items
distribution every 2nd & 4th
Thursday of the month.

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.



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, February 8, and Thursday, February 22, will be our next sack distributions. 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

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

February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Join us each Sunday morning for Fellowship in the Narthex before & after Worship</p>				1	2	3
<p>4 10AM-Bible Study 11AM-Worship Brief Endowment Meeting</p>	5	6	<p>7 9AM-Breakfast Club at Perkins</p>	<p>8 10-11AM-God's Gifts Food Pantry</p>	9	10
<p>11 <i>Last Day to collect items for the tree.</i> 10AM-Bible Study 11AM-Worship</p>	12	<p>13 1:30PM-Book Study at Grace 5-6:30PM-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Grace 6:30PM-Augustana Council Meeting</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday 7-10AM-Grace Ashes to Go Noon-Grace Service 4PM-Augustana Service 5-6PM-Augustana Ashes to Go 6:30PM-Augustana Service</p>	<p>15 6:30PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>	<p>16 5:30PM-Grace Game Night</p>	17
<p>18 10AM-Bible Study 11AM-Worship</p>	19	<p>20 8:45-Noon-Ministerium Meeting 1:30PM-Book Study at Grace</p>	<p>21 <i>Newsletter Articles Deadline</i> Midweek Lent Services: Noon-Grace 6:30PM-Augustana</p>	<p>22 10-11AM-God's Gifts Food Pantry 6:30PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>	23	24
<p>25 10AM-Bible Study 11AM-Worship</p>	26	<p>27 1:30PM-Book Study at Grace</p>	<p>28 Midweek Lent Services: Noon-Grace 6:30PM-Augustana</p>	<p>29 Noon-Lunch Bunch at The Golden Egg 6:30PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>	<p>See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! ~ I John 3:1 NIV</p> 	