

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

January 2024



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:

Looking backward and looking forward while looking in place! That is how I would describe these days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6th) and into the New Year. No matter what you or I have been through this last year when we reflect on 2023 what must ask ourselves few questions. What have I gained? Where did I grow? Who did I love, and who loved me? What brought me joy? What filled my eyes with tears? What made my heart sad? When did I experience a big belly laugh? Where did I fall short? In what ways could I have improved? What will I take from 2023 to begin this New year 2024?

When we slide from one year to the next without taking time to assess where we have been, we can easily slide into a New Year that will end up looking pretty much like the year before and the year before that. And if 2023 were a year that was filled for you with much hope, joy, peace, prosperity, wonderful abundance, purposeful and happy moments, then by all means my prayer for you is that you have another year, not exactly like last year, but similar.

But if that is not the kind of year you had in 2023, then some reflection, planning and intentional praying can help us not only chart a different course for what is to come but help us realize the year that God would ultimately want for each of us in 2024. Not that we can change some things or prevent the past from repeating itself (though in somethings we do have that power); but we can always change how we enter a situation, how we live through events, and how we reflect on life with a more hopeful and productive spirit as we move forward.

Someone told me once that New Year's resolutions help us decide what we want; but a New Year's reflection helps us understand where we are. You need to know where you are in order to get where you are going. If you are in Philadelphia and want to get to Chicago, the route is a whole lot different than if you want to get to North Carolina or Huston. So a life you love that is filled with joy, hope and peace doesn't happen by chance. Abundance of anything or anyone doesn't happen by chance. And it

(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)

certainly doesn't happen on our own without the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.

If 2023 has been a difficult and challenging year, then you are probably ready to be done with it. If you have been running around like that chicken with its little head cut off, then you are probably grateful to see 2023 in the rear view mirror as you look forward to starting a new chapter in your book of life. Just don't forget who gave you the book in the first place. So, start early before 2024 even begins. Take a healthy and reflective approach as you invite God into your plans for the year ahead. Express your gratitude first to God who has given us absolutely everything and everybody in our lives. But also express your gratitude to others for what they have done for you and for what they have meant in your life. It is well known that gratitude lifts our spirits. Take time to reflect on the many prayers God answered last year though they may not have been answered in exactly the way you had hoped. Then make a plan to set aside specific times of prayer each and every day...times when you can just pour your heart out to the God who is just waiting and longing to hear from you. Challenge yourself to sit every day with God's Word the Bible. Study it, read it, memorize it, look to it for the answers you need in your life, and allow God's word to come alive in your life. Commit time each week to praise, celebration and worship...Sunday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Wednesday evening and certainly whenever the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered. And lastly, get involved in fellowship, and outreach...being with other creatures of God makes us realize that we are not the only one God created. We all need each other and can help satisfy human needs while at the same time finding God's deep love in others. As we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads every morning recalling our baptism as Luther suggests we do so in the full knowledge that Christ will be with us throughout the day...every day in the New Year and beyond.

Thanks be to God!

Sister Nora

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2023

**January 7th –
Baptism of Our Lord**

Genesis 1:1-15
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
St. Mark 1:4-11



**January 14th –
Epiphany 2**

I Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6:12-20
St. John 1:43-51

**January 21st –
Epiphany 3**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

**January 28th –
Epiphany 4**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
I Corinthians 8:1-13
St. Mark 1:21-28

Prayer List

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

In Mourning

Megan Perus family
John Williams family

Surgery Recovery

Lezlee Carnahan
Don
Tim Cunningham
Tracy Thompson
Becky
Patty Spicknall
Pastor Joe
Fred Dunfee
Christy Yarnall

Health Concerns

Roy Powell
Penny Duck
Janet Moyer

Health Concerns, continued

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

Health Concerns, continued

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

Kenda Dues now home
Rick Cassel now home
Roy & Priscilla
Great Grandparents

Dear Members and friends:

*Thank
You*

Praying that everyone experienced a profoundly joy-filled Christmas and that your Epiphany will be filled with light and hope as we enter this New Year of 2024. I want to thank everyone for your cards, gifts and warm wishes during these special days. Thank you to the Church's organizations and to all the members of the congregation for the kind and generous monetary gift. I am humbled by your love in remembering me in so many ways. This has been a difficult year for everyone, especially financially. And I can say that just dealing with medical bills for my spoiled rotten Bichon, Hannah, has taken its toll on my pocketbook; so I don't know how those of you who must meet the needs of a family and kids in school manage to do it. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

My prayer for you is that 2024 will be a year full of good health, joy, peace, and hope for you, your family and friends.

*Blessings,
Sister Nora*

***Thank you** to every person who made our Advent and Christmas celebrations so meaningful. To our secretary and all who helped prepare all the bulletins, leader and large print books; to our custodian who made sure our building was clean and ready for the celebration; to those who decorated our building; to our organist/pianist who worked extra hard to provide wonderful music for the season and who worked tirelessly on accompaniments; to the choir; to the Altar Guild who not only prepared the Communion for each service but who decorated the sanctuary and did a quick change of paraments between Advent 4 (Dec. 24th in the morning) and Christmas Eve in the evening and for their arranging the Poinsettias; to every person who participated in the service as Assisting Minister, server, usher, Lector, technology server, cantor; and to all who attended the services leading up to and culminating in the joyous Celebration on Christmas Eve. Please forgive me if I failed to thank someone who should have been thanked. It certainly takes everyone to make the season come alive. Blessings for this Christmas and Epiphany Seasons. ~ Sister Nora*



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, January 11th and Thursday, January 25th 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
Laundry detergent

*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.

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.)

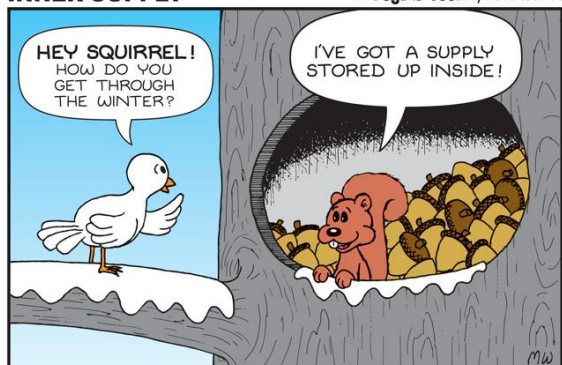
Please Call the Church Office or Sister Nora Directly if You are Hospitalized or Having Surgery.

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.

INNER SUPPLY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.
- PROVERBS 7:1 NIV

Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of November 14, 2023

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

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

***Financial reports** from September were presented. Building insurance increased by \$1,400 per year. 2024 staff payroll will increase 3%. Reports were unanimously approved.

***Sister Nora's reports** were presented. There is political turmoil in the ELCA. There will be a new bishop elected this year. She explained how shared ministry is more than just sharing a pastor.

***Unfinished Business:**

Call Process Review & Update. Maralee spoke with Pastor Dan. There is a high number of retired pastors vs. low number of new seminary students. There is a 42% vacancy in our Synod.

Office Copy Machine. The proposal from Applied Innovation was accepted. The copier will be paid for from Memorial Fund.

***New Business:**

Adult Sunday School will begin after January.

Shared Women's Retreat at Camp Lutherwald with Grace was discussed.

25¢ Sale will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9th.

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

Augustana Baptized Members:

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Church Council for a 3-year term. Contact Council President, Maralee Macumber, if you are so willing. Thank you.



Augustana's Annual Meeting Date Set

Sunday, January 21 ~ 10:30 AM

SNOW DATE:

Sunday, January 28 ~ 10:30 AM

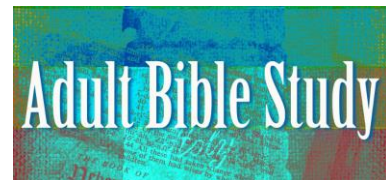
Mark your calendar & plan to attend!

Along with the regular business of the congregation (Adoption of the 2024 budget and election of Council Members), an additional item of business will be taken up regarding entering into a Shared Ministry Covenant with Grace Lutheran Church. This would allow for each church to maintain their own identity, building and cultures; but it would also provide for a pastor to serve 50% of their ministry time at each church. It would also allow for some future planning of shared fellowship opportunities, outreach, and perhaps special worship events. We hope everyone will be present.

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Sock, Scarf and Mitten/Glove Tree for Blessing Bags

We are collecting these items during Epiphany season 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.



Begins in January
"Come and See"

Sundays at 10:00 AM
Come when you are able.

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**The Next Holden Evening Prayer . . .
Wednesday, March 20th – 6:30 PM**

Note: that there will be no
Holden Evening Prayer
the months of January & February.



Celebrate & Gather with One Another

January Birthdays

3rd – AJ Miller
 4th – Kathy Garl
 5th – Brian Fann
 9th – Chris Craft Kauffman
 18th – Stacie Jeffirs
 18th – Koris Koontz
 25th – Kathy Miller
 30th – Ann Howard

January Anniversaries

7th – Dakota & Chloe Ryall
 29th – Michael & Stacie Jeffirs

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



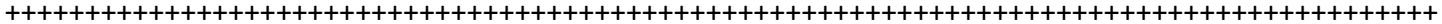
2024 Augustana Members & Friends Directory
 Once the new Council has been determined, the directory will be updated! Be watching...because your help will be needed to update your personal information.

January Altar Flowers



- January 7th – Available
- January 14th – Available
- January 21st – Available
- January 28th – Available

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!



AUGUSTANA BREAKFAST CLUB
Wednesday, January 3, 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 January 25th**. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. Phone your reservation and the number coming to the church office by Tuesday, January 23rd.

January 2024 Server Schedule

January 7th – Baptism of our Lord

Assisting Minister: Scott Watson
Lector: Melanie Watson
Server: Jack Watson
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

January 14th – Epiphany 2

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder
Lector: Jennifer Ball
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Jerry & Judy Duck

January 21st – Epiphany 3

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder
Lector: Nancy Tinder
Server: Dorothy Moyer
Technology Server: Jack Watson
Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

January 28th – Epiphany 4

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Diane Erickson
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Dorothy Moyer
Ushers: Janet Moyer & Deb Rowland

January Altar Guild

Emily Moyer & Heidi Scupham

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!*

December Financial/ Attendance Report

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

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Funds to General Fund
\$129,197.20	\$86,546.99
December Monthly Budget	December Average Atten. Sunday In-Person
\$12,097.00	33
December Offering to General Fund	December Average Atten. Sunday Facebook
\$6,258.63	43
December Weekly Budget	Noisy Offering Year-to-Date
\$2,419.40	\$243.00



The Word In Season

2024 Daily Devotional booklets
for January, February, March
have arrived. Be sure to pick up
your free copy!

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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.

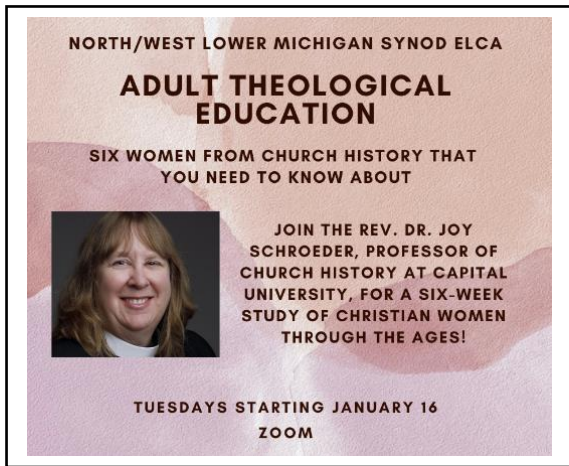
Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art

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!

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HURRY!!! Registration ends January 5th!

Ever since the beginning of Christianity, women have been teachers, writers, and preachers of the Gospel. Learn about the struggles and accomplishments of six exemplary women from church history:

- Perpetua (d. ca. 202), North African martyr and visionary writer
- Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Saxon nun and theologian
- Argula von Grumbach (ca. 1492-ca. 1554), Bavarian Lutheran reformer and pamphlet writer
- Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695), Mexican nun and poet
- Jarena Lee (1783-1864), African American preacher
- Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922), Indian Bible translator and founder of women's shelters

Dr. Schroeder will discuss these women's inspirational lives and writings.

The Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder, an ELCA pastor, is Professor of Church History at Capital University, where she teaches in the Department of Religion and Philosophy and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. She holds the Trinity Chair in Lutheran Heritage. Dr. Schroeder earned a B.A. in Classics from Luther College, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. She is the author of five books on the history of how Christians and Jews have interpreted scripture. Her most recent book, co-authored with Marion Ann Taylor (University of Toronto) is *Voices Long Silenced: Women Biblical Interpreters through the Centuries* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2022).

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2024 from 7:00 - 8:15pm ET via Zoom. This course is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and is free of charge. Sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants.

Registration is required and will close on January 5. Click to [Register Now](#) or call church office.

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

January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Office Closed	2	3 9:00 AM - Breakfast Club at Perkins	4 Office Closing at 11 AM	5	6
7 10AM-Bible Study 11AM-Worship	8	9 6:30 PM - Augustana Council Meeting	10	11 10-11 AM - God's Gift Food Pantry	12	13
14 10AM-Bible Study 11AM-Worship	15	16 8:45AM-12PM Ministerium Meeting	17	18	19	20
21 10AM-Bible Study 10:30AM Annual Meeting 11AM-Worship	22	23 <i>Newsletter Article Deadline</i>	24	25 10-11 AM - God's Gift Food Pantry NOON - Augustana Lunch Bunch - Golden Egg	26	27
28 10AM-Bible Study 10:30AM SNOW DATE for Annual Meeting 11AM-Worship	29	30	31			