

AUGUSTANA NEWS MARCH 2020

+++++

Augustana Lutheran Church

1133 Kilbourn Street Elkhart, Indiana 46514 Phone: 574-294-3823

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

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9am-12 noon

Augustana Staff

Pastor of Record: Pastor Dan Forehand
Deacon: Sister Nora Frost
Music Director: Sean Diller
Treasurer: Randy Tinder
Secretary: Kathy Nowak

Congregational Council

Janet Ermis, President
A.J. Diller
Keith Johnson
Marilee Macumber
Don and Dee Smith
Heidi Scupham, Vice-President
Chloe Cornwell
Brenda Miller
Dave Ermis, Secretary

Deadline for the April 2020 Augustana News is Thursday, March 19th!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Periodically I pull a book from my book case or an article from my file cabinet which hasn't been read for a long time. Recently I reread an article titled, "Monks Have Secrets Worth Knowing" which may have been read for the first time 20 years ago. The author who, who had spent ten days on retreat with Trappist Monks in Oregon, learned many interesting facts, but more importantly he learned one of their secrets – namely what it takes to truly live in a Christian community and be community. He learned that those living at the abbey were fairly typical (as Trappist's go); they comprised an extremely diverse group of individuals bringing to the mix every kind of temperament, interests, background, age, political as well as theological, ethical and moral bent. Wow, sounds a lot like the church. Mr. Berrigan's conclusion was that these monks were "obviously not all ordered from the same catalog." The same can be said for almost every Christian community, religious order, as well as our own congregations of Augustana and Grace.

Upon first entering the abbey, the author had, as do most people, an idealistic understanding of the monks believing that each one could be found near faultless, living in serenity while practicing an exceptional compassion for each other. The reality was not always exactly as he had imagined it.

The monks were ordinary people with weaknesses much like the rest of society. As they lived together in close proximity, they were sometimes petty, jealous, tired, grumpy and bad behaviors, which left unchallenged, grated on each other causing mean spirited and irritable responses. Was this simply an extremely angry group of people who had lost their Christ-centered life? Or could it be that each of these persons brought with them their own history, hurts, joys, memories, griefs, and dreams? The amazement in all of this lies in the fact that they stayed together building up their community since that was of greater importance than any one individual need. They lived there for each other not only for each other but for others and provided a warm welcome to anyone who came through their door. In the end their differences made up their real richness. What a blessing that was. So why did a community like that work? I really believe that the only way a Christian community can live in harmony, grow, thrive and serve is by placing all of their longings, hopes, dreams, desires, and energies in a place outside of themselves. This is the secret worth knowing and a secret worth remembering and putting into practice. We all long for a Christian community where individuals can worship, learn, grow, pray and serve together harmoniously even though we are all very different.

Why is this hard for us? Because often we try to be a Christian community (congregation) build around ourselves, our needs, our wants, our personalities, our egos, and around our philosophies, and what we hope will be our like-mindedness. For many of us this means that everyone must have our opinion, think as we do, and never challenge us. None of this, however, can bring us together in ways that are helpful or meaningful. Without a clear center, rooted in God, our churches will neither be welcoming or lasting. We can worship together, grow and study and pray together, grow in new ways, challenge each other and care for each other without growing weary only when our focus is not upon ourselves. In the next months we will come together to make difficult decisions. In that process we need to be rooted and grounded in God's love and supported and directed by the one who is far greater than any one of us. It is not easy to be open to hearing ideas and opinions which may be very different from ours – yet, we MUST for Christ's sake. As we gather for decision making, for prayer, worship, and for fellowship, may we listen intently, sharing our true feelings with each other openly, laughing loudly, and seeking God's will in every decision. Let us put aside our differences in order that our diversity may bring together unimaginable gifts of healing and whole not just for us but for others. The author of the article I reread ends by his saying, "We can live each other despite our differences, only when we are not simply facing each other, but most importantly when we are all facing in the same direction, eyes fixed upon praising God and God alone." That is the secret for a good marriage, a good friendship, a good congregation and a good community.

Blessings on the journey and during our discernment.

Sister Nora

Chrism Liturgy 2020

Each year the Bishop holds several Chrism Liturgies throughout the synod. Traditionally Chrism (blessing of oils for Baptism and Anointing of the sick) and the renewal of ministry promises by both Pastors and Deacons take place during Holy Week or at least during the season of Lent. Our Bishop Bill will preside over six of these liturgies. The morning will begin with a gathering fellowship at 9:30 AM, worship at 10 AM followed by conversation with the bishop and lunch. While the primary focus of the morning will be on rostered ministers (Pastors and Deacons), all congregational members are welcome to attend.

Sister Nora plans to attend the one which will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at Messiah Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. If you would like to attend, please let Sister Nora know as registrations are necessary.

Mid-Week Lenten Services

During the 2020 Lenten Season you will have opportunity to attend Mid-week Lenten services either at noon at Grace or at Augustana at 7 PM preceded by a potluck. Services will rotate between Evening Prayer/ Noon Day Prayer and Service of healing. The services will offer a time for quiet meditation, prayer, reading of scripture with reflection and hymns. Please plan to make these mid-week services part of your Lenten discipline. If for some reason you are unable to attend, use the scripture for the service in your personal devotions.

Mid-Week Lenten Services: Noon at Grace, 6PM Potluck and 7PM Worship at Augustana

March 4th – Mark 4:1-20

March 11th – Mark 7: 1-23

March 18th – Mark 10:1-12

March 25th – Mark 12:28-44

April 1st – Mark 15:1-15

+++++

SPRING FORWARD – Sunday, March 8th Daylight Savings Time Begins

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour at 3AM on Sunday, March 8th when we begin Daylight Savings Time.

+++++

YOU ARE INVITED – March 1st at 2PM

St. John's Episcopal Church 226 W. Lexington Ave. in Elkhart, Indiana will be hosting a concert on Sunday, March 1st at 2PM by the River Bend Chorus. All are welcome to attend.

+++++

**March Sunday Worship at Augustana at 9AM –
April Sunday Worship at Grace at 9AM**

+++++

Important dates to remember:

Please mark your calendars for two important dates. On Sunday, March 29th the Congregation Councils of Both Augustana and Grace will present reports and recommendations which have come from the consolidation Teams. Then on Sunday, April 19th both Augustana and Grace will hold Congregational Meetings to vote on recommendations.

Please plan to attend these meetings

+++++

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE:

April 5th – Palm/Passion Sunday 9am Worship at Grace

April 8th – Wednesday in Holy Week 4PM Worship at Grace

April 9th – Holy (Maundy Thursday) 7PM Worship at Augustana

April 10th – Good Friday 12PM – Community Service St James AME

2PM – Stations of the Cross at Pathways in Goshen

7PM Worship at Grace

April 11th – Holy Saturday Vigil 7PM Worship at Augustana

April 12th – Easter 7AM Sunrise Service at Grace

9AM Worship at Grace

11AM Worship at Augustana

Welcome Baby Annika Hope Forehand

Congratulations to Pastor Dan and Kim on the February 8th birth of Annika Hope Forehand who was 7 lbs. 13 oz. and 19 inches long. She is doing well, eating and growing. Thanks be to God. We continue to pray for Annika, Pastor Dan and Kim and Naomi during these special days of being together. Pastor Dan will be on paternity leave for six weeks. If you have needs during this time, please call Sister Nora at 574-226-1412.

+++++

Altar Flowers for March

March 1st – In Thanks to God for Augustana and Grace Lutheran Churches by Robin Jones

March 8th – In Celebration of the 24th Wedding Anniversary of Chuck and Brenda Miller

March 15th – Open

March 22nd – In memory of Robert Brewer by Wayne and Eva Brewer

March 29th – In memory of Jim Wirt by Marsha Wirt

If you would like to sponsor flowers for an open Sunday the cost is \$25 payable to your congregation and marked in the memo line "Altar Flowers". Place in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

March Anniversary

Chuck and Brenda Miller 3/29

March Birthdays

Judy Duck 3/3
Jon Howard 3/6
Garrett Ganczak 3/9
Don Smith 3/12
Carol Reshan 3/13
Lilly Fann 3/13
Mary Merchant 3/17
Olivia Ianagnilio 3/18
Heidi Paston 3/28

If we have missed your anniversary or birthday, please call the church office and give us your information.

Prayer List: Russ Anderson; Dick and Mary Cassel; Carolyton Caton-Pindell; Tyler Conley Gary and Cathy Davis, Barbara Dills, Amy Girl; Brynleigh lavagnilio; Gina Iannarelli, Stephanie lavagnilio, Betty Johnson, Sadie Knepper, Debra Ludlow; Amy Miller; Kathy Miller; Marie Moberg; Janet Moyer; Gretta Peterson; Wini Rogers; Harry Rombke; Juanita Schumaker; Thom Swanson; June Williamson; Lynn Winters

To add or remove someone's name you may email requests to secretary@augustana.comcastbiz.net, drop your request in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

Easter Plants ++ Return this order to the church by 3/29

I wish to order an Easter plant/s to decorate the chancel for Easter. The cost is \$8.00 per plant and monies need to be turned in with your order.

Number	Type of plant
---------------	----------------------

_____	Easter lily
_____	Tulips
_____	Hyacinths

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

(One plant can be given in memory of more than one person.)

Dedicated in **Honor** or **Memory** of (Indicate which for each plant.)

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PLANT(S) AFTER EASTER WORSHIP. **DEADLINE MARCH 29TH**

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

There will be a Women of the ELCA Cluster Gathering on Saturday, April 25th from 9AM thru lunch at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 708 Wayne Street in Middlebury, Indiana 46540. All women are encouraged to attend.

+++++

FOOD PANTRY

The Grace Food Pantry is in need of pasta sauce, pasta noodles, Raman Noodles, canned vegetables, non-perishable food items and bar bath soap. Please bring items to worship at Augustana in March and place by the office door. In April while worshipping at Grace place food donations just inside the doors in boxes marked food pantry. Items will be distributed on Tuesday mornings from 10-11 AM.



I-K Lutheran

Where God is doing new things

March 2020

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? --God [Isaiah 58:5-7]



The question of the season: What will you give up for Lent this year? Why? The prophet Isaiah appears to have something to say about how we answer those questions!

I have realized that I tend to think of fasting – the practice of giving up things, not eating things, abstaining from things or habits for a period of time – as an expression of my personal piety, something that is about or is meant to deepen my relationship with God. During Lent, the practicing of giving up or fasting from something can also be a path by which I return to my baptismal identity as a Word-washed, cross-marked, Spirit-sealed and sent child of God.

As it turns out, Isaiah – rather, God speaking through Isaiah – is right: my tendency is to individualize my fasting into something that is primarily about me and Jesus, my posture and position before God. Most often, my giving up stuff during Lent is, in fact, about humbling myself, bowing down my head, settling into a bed of sackcloth and ashes for forty days.

Apparently, that's not the fast that God is looking for from us. At least, it's not the only form of fasting that God expects of us. The ancient prophet reminds us that there are also social, communal dimensions to our fasting. It is not only or even primarily about our own personal piety or focus on self-improvement or "me and Jesus." Lenten fasts are also, perhaps even primarily, about growth in self-giving love for our neighbor. Me and Jesus always includes others. Centuries after Isaiah, John the letter writer put it this way [1 John 3:14-17]:

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death... We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Do you hear the echo? Loose the bonds of injustice. Let the oppressed go free. Break every yoke. Share bread with the hungry. Bring the homeless into our own homes. Clothe the naked. Draw closer to, not further from, others in the family of God. Love your neighbor. Is not this the fast that I choose for those who have passed from death to life in Christ crucified and risen?

At first blush this sort of fast doesn't seem to involve abstaining from or giving up anything. It's a call to do things, to add rather than subtract. But the gospel truth is that engaging in such Christ-like behavior requires fasting from or being willing to give up or let go of a great deal. This fast calls for us to let go of our need to control or be in charge, to risk losing our sterling reputation and open space in our hearts reserved only for people who are like us, to surrender comfort, loosen our grip on resources, and relinquish time, fear, and stereotypes of others. Yet, in the power of the Holy Spirit who has sealed us in Christ, fasting from, repenting of, giving up these sorts of sin-shaped beliefs and behaviors frees us from the oppressive yoke of self-serving self-preservation, which binds us to the way of death, and sets free us to walk in and share the new, abundant, and lasting life that springs as a gift from the entrance of an empty tomb.

So, dear follower of Jesus, how will you fast this Lent?

Bishop Bill Gafkjen



Weekly Scripture Readings & Sermon Summaries **March 2020**

March 1, 2020 – First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

"Tempting Lies" - Sermon Text: Matthew 4:1-11 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Have you ever been tempted to sin? We all have. And Satan, the father of lies, will lie to us to tempt us to sin. Jesus shows us how to resist temptation by relying on God's Word for help, strength, and guidance.

March 8, 2020 – Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-8, 13-17; John 3:1-17

"Good News for You!" - Sermon Text: John 3:1-17 - Rev. William Mueller

John 3:1-17 contain some of the most loved and treasured words of Scripture. We are right to dearly treasure these words! And these aren't just words on a page, they are a description of how much our God and Savior loves us. This, indeed, is Good News for You!

March 15, 2020 – Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm 95:1-9; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-15

"Under Construction" - Sermon Text: Romans 5:1-8 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Rejoice in the midst of sufferings? Impossible! *Unless* we understand that God accomplishes miracles in our lives through suffering, how suffering means that our lives are Under Construction.

March 22, 2020 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-11; John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

"Displaying God's Works" - Sermon Text: John 9:3 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Those who are or will be hospitalized, homebound, in a nursing home, or in some other way limited or restricted can be susceptible to feeling useless. But for the person who has faith in Jesus, no matter what the circumstances are, life always has a purpose. God uses each believer to display His wonderful divine works.

March 29, 2020 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:17-27, 38-53

"Now What?" - Sermon Text: John 11:25-26 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

Death and the horrible separation it brings are not what God intended for His creation and it causes confusion in the most ardent believer. This is what the death of the Lazarus did to his sister Martha. Yet Jesus entered into her confusion and despair and He spoke words of life that changed everything.

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.

5 Martin Luther Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996

Phone: (260) 471-5683 | Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

WorshipAnew.org | info@WorshipAnew.org

Assisting Minister:

Scott Watson

Communion Assistant:

Bonnie Rice

Altar Guild:

Brenda Miller & Nancy Tinder

Coffee Hostess:

Diane Erickson & Brenda Miller

Counter:

Christine Mills

March 1, 2020 – Lent 1

Greeters: Christine Jeffirs Moore &
Brenda Miller

Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

Servers: George Scupham

Lector: Dawn Mills

Nursery: Jillian Scupham

Sound: Chuck Miller

March 8, 2020 – Lent 2

Greeters: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

Ushers: Melanie Watson &
Brooke Watson

Server: Liam Peterson

Lector: Nancy Tinder

Nursery: Emily Moyer

Sound: Mark Moyer

*Reminder: If you are unable to serve as scheduled,
please find a replacement – and let the church office
know who the replacement is. Contact information:
secretary@augustana.comcastbiz.net or 574.294.3823.
Thank you.*

MARCH 2020
~ SUNDAY ~
SERVER'S SCHEDULE

+++++

"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty
savior, who will rejoice over you with gladness, and
renew you in His love."

-Zephaniah 3:17

March 15, 2020 – Lent 3

Greeters: Brad & Amanda Ganczak

Ushers: Janet Moyer & Jillian Scupham

Server: Garrett Ganczak

Lector: Lynn Winters

Nursery: Christine Jeffirs Moore

Sound: Chuck Miller

March 22, 2020 – Lent 4

Greeters: Jerry & Doris Koontz

Ushers: Don & Dee Smith

Server: Brooke Watson

Lector: Melanie Watson

Nursery: Emily Moyer

Sound: Mark Moyer

March 29, 2020 – Lent 5

Greeters: Mike & Linda Iavagnilio

Ushers: Brenda Miller & Deb Rowland

Server: Jillian Scupham

Lector: Maralee Macumber

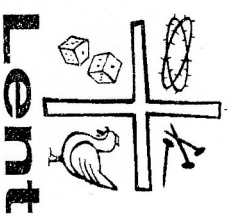
Nursery: Christine Jeffirs Moore

Sound: Chuck Miller

MARCH

2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00am Worship-AU 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bible Study	2	3 10:40am Susanna's Kit. 10:00am-Christm Mass Messiah-Ft. Wayne	4 12 noon - Worship GR 4:00pm Wrship -GRA 6:00pm-Potluck-AU 7:00pm - Wrship-AU 8:00pm AA	5 5:00-7:00 pm Music Lessons	6 Church Office Closed	7
8 Daylight Saving Time begins 9:00am Worship-AU 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bible Study	9	10 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Faith is Fun!	11 12 noon - Worship GR 4:00pm Wrship -GRA 6:00pm-Potluck-AU 7:00pm - Wrship-AU 8:00pm AA	12 5:00-7:00 pm Music Lessons	13 Church Office Closed	14 8:30am Men in Mission Breakfast @ Trade Winds
15 12:00pm Optimist Oratorical Contest at Grace 9:00am Worship-AU 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bible Study	16 9:30am - Clothing Room 6:30pm Joint Council @ Augustana	17 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Faith is Fun! 7:00pm Choir	18 12 noon - Worship GR 4:00pm Wrship -GRA 6:00pm-Potluck-AU 7:00pm - Wrship-AU 8:00pm AA	19 5:00-7:00 pm Music Lessons	20 Church Office Closed	21
22 9:00am Worship-AU 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bible Study	23 7:15am Cup o' Joe at Electric Brew 9:30 am Clothing Room	24 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Faith is Fun! 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	25 12 noon - Worship GR 4:00pm Wrship -GRA 6:00pm-Potluck-AU 7:00pm - Wrship-AU 8:00pm AA	26 9:00am Grace Notes Articles Due 5:00-7:00 pm Music Lessons	27 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Grace Supper Club @ Bent Oak	28
29 9:00am Worship-AU 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bible Study	30 7:15am Cup o' Joe at Electric Brew	31 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Faith is Fun 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir				




March 2020



Augustana Lutheran Church

1133 Kilbourn St. ~ Elkhart, IN 46514

Phone: 574-294-3823 ~ Website: www.augustanaelkhart.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lent 1 4	2	3	4	5	6	7
9AM-Worship/Sunday School at Augustana w/ Noisy Offering After Worship: Prayer Team; BP Checks; Coffee Hour 2PM-St. John's Episcopal Concert Series		9:30AM-Chrism Mass at Messiah Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne 10AM-Food Pantry at Grace 5:30PM-Faith is Fun! at Grace 6PM-Bell Practice at Grace 7PM-Choir Practice at Grace	9AM-Breakfast Club at Golden Egg 12PM-Lenten Worship at Grace 4PM-Worship at Grace 6PM-Potluck and... 7PM-Lenten Worship at Augustana			
Lent 2 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9AM-Worship/Sunday School at Augustana After Worship: Coffee Hour Daylight Savings Time Begins – Set Your Clock Forward		10AM-Food Pantry at Grace 5:30PM-Faith is Fun! at Grace 6PM-Bell Practice at Grace 7PM-Choir Practice at Grace	12PM-Lenten Worship at Grace 4PM-Worship at Grace 6PM-Potluck and... 7PM-Lenten Worship at Augustana			8:30AM-Grace/Augustana Men's Breakfast at Tradewinds
Lent 3 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9AM-Worship/Sunday School at Augustana w/ Noisy Offering After Worship: BP Checks; Coffee Hour 12-5PM-Optimus Club Youth Oratorical Contest at Grace	6:30PM-Joint Council Meeting at Augustana	10AM-Food Pantry at Grace 5:30PM-Faith is Fun! at Grace 6PM-Bell Practice at Grace 7PM-Choir Practice at Grace	12PM-Lenten Worship at Grace 4PM-Worship at Grace 6PM-Potluck and... 7PM-Lenten Worship at Augustana	Newsletter Articles Due		LOMIK Caving Retreat Weekend Lutheran Hills 5th – 8th Grades
Lent 4 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9AM-Worship/Sunday School at Augustana After Worship: Coffee Hour	Pastor Dan Returns from Paternity Leave	9:30AM-Ministerium 10AM-Food Pantry at Grace 5:30PM-Faith is Fun! at Grace 6PM-Bell Practice at Grace 7PM-Choir Practice at Grace	12PM-Lenten Worship at Grace 4PM-Worship at Grace 6PM-Potluck and... 7PM-Lenten Worship at Augustana			
Lent 5 29	30	31	<p>Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time. -Martin Luther</p> 			
9AM-Worship/Sunday School at Augustana After Worship: Coffee Hour Council to Present Consolidation Recommendations		10AM-Food Pantry at Grace 5:30PM-Faith is Fun! at Grace 6PM-Bell Practice at Grace 7PM-Choir Practice at Grace				