



Augustana News

May 2026

Did you know that congregations that read the bible together are 72% more likely to attract new members?!

You probably didn't know that, because I just made it up. Did I get your attention?!

Congregations that read the bible together are 100% more likely to know the bible better, though. And they're a lot more likely to grow closer to God and to one another too. I suspect that they grow in the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), and are more prepared to love and serve their neighbors. They probably have a greater spirit of generosity and a stronger faith.

Even though it might not be 72% guaranteed, I suspect our congregations might grow in many ways if we commit to thoughtful bible study together.

There are so many ways in which our congregations are strong and capable, and I am grateful to have been able to just step into some wonderful ministries at both Augustana and Grace, now almost one year ago. But our bible study participation this past year... Oof. It's been a bit rough getting folks to participate and show up.

Our difficulty in getting folks to attend bible study is not unique. Many congregations struggle with this. Yet, Augustana and Grace both listed rebuilding bible studies and opportunities for adult faith formation as a goal for their new pastor in the paperwork I received when interviewing here. We know that having solid opportunities to read the bible in community, to learn more, to discuss and ask questions is so important for life as a person of faith. Our Christian education should not stop with Confirmation!

So we will be getting into the Bible this year.

From Pentecost 2026 to Pentecost 2027 (May to May), we will have a whole buffet of bible and book study options for our folks to participate in. Most of these options will cover one topic over the course of 4 to 6 sessions. You can choose one that interests you, and skip the next if it's not as intriguing. You can show up when the time is good for your schedule, and take a break when you have a busy season. Or you can come to every single one! I hope that there will be something offered that interests everyone in the coming year.

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(Bible Study - continued from Page 1)

I am asking every member of both church councils to participate in at least 2 of these studies throughout the year (they got that news at our April joint council meeting), and I am asking that every member of our congregation participates in at least 1 study. 4-6 weeks of bible study in the course of a year seems manageable, even for a busy schedule. At Augustana, participation will be an important part of the “year of listening” we’ll soon begin together (read more below in Augustana’s news).

Some of the studies you can look forward to in the first half of this coming year include a study on the book of Acts and a bible study accompanying the TV show *The Chosen*.

If you have an idea for a part of the bible you want to delve into, let me know. If there is a contemporary issue you think about and you wonder what the bible has to say, tell me and we’ll plan to cover it. If there is a book you’ve read that’s been formative for your faith, drop us a suggestion. There are many options for how we might grow in faith together in the coming year.

I’m sure whatever we study, the Spirit will be present. She will blow wildly in our midst when we gather together as she did among the first Christians on Pentecost.

This month, we’ll have some special opportunities to listen to the Spirit as the word is preached by one of our own young people on May 17, and we celebrate the confirmation of another young person on Pentecost (May 24).

These Sundays are not to be missed!

The Spirit that stirred on that first Pentecost will stir among us again, and I know she will guide, nurture, educate, and empower us as we gather together again and again over the coming year.

I’ll see you at Bible Study (yeah, I’m talking to YOU)!

Pastor Emily

Pastoral Information

Rev. Emily Trubey-Weller

Pastor Emily's Office Hours

9 AM-3 PM

*Monday, Wednesday at **Augustana***

*Tuesday, Thursday at **Grace***



OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ 9 AM-3 PM

Tuesday ~ 1 PM-4 PM

Wednesday ~ 1 PM-4 PM

**Please call for an appointment*

PRAYER LIST



Ken Davis

Barbara Hillyer

Joel, Barbara's son-in-law, cancer.

Deb Ludlow

Rachelle Laroche—lung cancer treatment.

Courtney Evans, Jessica Kauffman's brother-in-law—cancer.

Andie Ermis—broken ankle.

Brian, Barbara Hillyer's son, following the death of his wife, Stephanie.

Arson, Katonia, and Cory, friends of Aaron Lobley—recovering from a car accident.

Ron Rosen, friend of the Trubey-Weller family—recovering from a car accident.

Military Service Members, especially Jonathan Beyer from Grace Lutheran.

Year of Listening

A year of listening...

Your church council has been working hard this past year as we consider the challenges our congregation faces, the joys and burdens of our week-to-week ministry, and the values and beliefs that unite and inspire us under the cross of Christ. At our April meeting, Pastor Emily came with a proposal for Augustana to undertake a year of listening together as a congregation. The council affirmed moving forward with this plan.

During this year we will undertake no new major projects, start no new ministry efforts, and make no significant changes to our life together. In other words, we'll keep doing the good work we are already doing! We will also set aside intentional time to pray for our future together, and to listen for the voice of God, one another, and our neighbors.

Read below for the plan we are committed to beginning after Pentecost in May 2026 continuing until Pentecost in May 2027. Reach out to Pastor Emily or a church council member with your ideas, reflections, or hopes for the coming year!

Proposal: A Year of Listening

We commit to a year of listening to the voices of the Holy Spirit, one another, and our neighbors. We will do so through: prayer, silence, scripture, conversation, and intentional periods of restfulness.

On Sundays:

- We begin worship each week with a short time of silence, followed by prayerful music and/or ringing of a bell/singing bowl.
- Spiritual practices/new forms of prayer focused on listening for God's voice will be woven into our regular times of prayer in worship.

Everyone will be asked to make an effort to stay for First Sunday Meals, to have time in good fellowship with one another. We will continue meals through the summer and will find others to supplement Deb's good and gracious leadership so she can have a break when needed.

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(A Year of Listening - continued from Page 3)

At council meetings:

- We begin each meeting with a short time of silence, followed by a spiritual practice/prayer, led by Pastor Emily for devotions.
- We will focus on discernment over decision-making.
- We will make no major decisions, changes, or additions to the ministry of Augustana.
- We will take a break of at least one month, probably in the summer.

Church council members will be asked to attend at least 2 of the offered bible/book studies this year to continue listening for the voice of God in scripture.

For the congregation:

- The entire congregation will be asked to attend at least 1 of the offered bible/book studies this year to continue listening for the voice of God in scripture.

There will be opportunities for us to get to know some of our neighbors through 1-on-1's or forums arranged by Pastor Emily during this year of listening. The entire congregation will be asked to participate in some of these opportunities. (Details TBD)

Pastor Emily:

- In addition to supporting the congregation in all of the above, Pastor Emily will take one half day per month (on a Monday) for a private time of prayer and reflection on Augustana's ministries away from the church (likely at Pathways Retreat).
- Pastor Emily will make good use of remaining continuing education time and funds this year to expand knowledge, leadership, and practices that will support this process.



Join Chaplain Cory Martin for Breakfast with the Chaplain! We are so glad to have welcomed Cory from the Elkhart Jail Ministry to worship on April 19. What a joy to learn about a great ministry in our community! If you enjoyed hearing from Cory or want to learn more, consider attending "Breakfast with the Chaplain" at the Elkhart County Jail. Cards at the back of the sanctuary give all upcoming dates or you can read more on their website: <https://elkhartcountyjailministry.org/>

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

First Wednesday Breakfast Club
Wednesday, May 6 ~ 9 AM

Meet at **Perkins** on Cassopolis Street.
Call Deb Rowland for reservations.

Last Thursday Lunch Brunch
Thursday, May 28 ~ 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 Tuesday, May 26.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING
FOR FELLOWSHIP IN THE NARTHEX
BEFORE & AFTER WORSHIP.

GOD'S GIFTS PANTRY
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS
10-11 AM

We're kicking off a Young Adult Group on May 13! Young adults are amid a time of life filled with transitions, questions, and growth. With our friends at St. John's Episcopal Church, Augustana and Grace are working to create a space for people in this unique time of life to come together around food, friendship, and questions of faith.

Join us on Wednesday, May 13, 6-8 PM at St. John's (226 W Lexington Ave, Elkhart)! Dinner is provided (pizza, salad, drinks, etc). We will get to know each other and spend time listening to one another as we consider what we're looking for in this phase of life.

If you consider yourself a young adult, this is for you! Reach out to Pastor Emily with questions or to RSVP by May 10.



ACTS BIBLE STUDY: What were the first days of the church like? What challenges did early Christians face? How did they express their faith? What did they believe?

We'll explore these questions and more in our bible study on the book of Acts. Pentecost begins this wild ride, so our study will begin right after we read the Pentecost story in worship. Join us on Tuesdays at 2 PM at Grace (May 26, June 2, 9, 16) or Sundays after worship at Augustana (May 31, June 7, 14). Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or RSVP to Pastor Emily.



We're going to the South Bend Cubs on June 28! We are going to the South Bend Cubs again this summer! This year Augustana and Grace will join with friends at Faith Lutheran Church in Goshen to have a big cheering block together. Non-church member family and friends are also welcome to attend! Please RSVP to the church office by phone or email with your name and number in your party. Your spot is not reserved until we receive the \$15 per ticket fee (put it in the offering plate or give online marked "Cubs"). Ticket includes a giveaway (usually a hat!), but not food. Our seats are behind home plate and there are only 3 steps to the first row of our seating, for those who may have trouble with stairs. Game time is 2:05 PM! Play ball!



South Bend Cubs game!
Sunday, June 28 @ 2pm
 vs. the Quad Cities River Bandits

We have a block of seats reserved behind home plate at \$15 per person. Deadline to sign up & pay is Sun, June 7.



* **TICKETS WILL NOT BE RESERVED UNTIL PAID FOR**
 Please sign up & put \$ in offering plate or pay online at gracelutheranelkhart.org/give

May 2026 Servers Schedule

May 3 – Easter

Assisting Minister: Ed Williams

Lector: Ed Williams

Server: Cayden Abner

Technology Server: Randy Tinder

Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

May 10 – Easter

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer

Lector: Diane Erickson

Server: Leah Moyer

Technology Server: Cayden Abner

Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

May 17 – Easter

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber

Lector: Maralee Macumber

Server: Cayden Abner

Technology Server: Mark Moyer

Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

May 24 – Easter

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder

Lector: Nancy Tinder

Server: George Scupham

Technology Server: Randy Tinder

Ushers: Deb Rowland & Emily Moyer

May 31 – Easter

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer

Lector: Mark Moyer

Server: Leah Moyer

Technology Server: Randy Tinder

Ushers: Deb Rowland & Janet Moyer

May Altar Guild

Jerry & Doris Koontz

Please let the office know of any changes.

May Altar Flowers



May 3 - Patricia Turner
in memory of daughter,
Susie, on her birthday

May 10 - Randy & Nancy Tinder
in memory of their mothers.

May 17 - Available

May 24 - Available

May 31 - Available

If the Altar Flowers are not sponsored, there will be no flowers. Two floral bouquets total \$50. That's a real deal! 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.

Financial and Attendance Report

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

*** Information thru April 28, 2026*

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$46,971.25	\$29,596.70
April Monthly Budget Requirement	April Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,730.00	\$6,409.00
MAY Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	\$11,730.00
April Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	April Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
39	3



*Joint Council Minutes Highlights
Of April 14, 2026*

Present: Chuck Miller, William Brouwer, Greg Smith, Valerie Corson, Leann Buss, Dorothy Anderson, Cheryl Mann, Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson Dave O'Neil, Gregg Choler, Mark Moyer, Chris Ouimet, Noah Reshan, Brian Fann, Nancy Tinder, Randy Tinder, Pastor Emily

Introductions: Shared names, congregation, and one thing we enjoy outside of church.

Mentioned shared ministry agreement.

Shared outreach

- Blessing Bags - we'll continue to fill zip-lock items with personal hygiene products. Leann Buss will provide a list to both congregations.
- Soup of Success Volunteer Night - Nancy Tinder will look into possible date.
- Mosaic Luncheon - Diane Erickson issued invitation to attend.

Shared Worship

- Music Director candidate fell through.
Bill & Amy may need relief.
Diane Erickson and Pastor Emily to possibly reach out to retired musicians.
Pastor Emily will send job posting to Grace College.
Pastor Emily will post job on Indeed.
- 5th Sunday combined worship
concern expressed about either church being empty on a Sunday.
"mini service" with communion at the church not having service?

Shared Fellowship

- South Bend Cubs Game
- Wine and Canvas night

Shared Bible Study

- May Bible Study, possible times.

Other Shared Possibilities

- Lutherwald retreat day/overnight - fall.
- Bulletin and Newsletter.
- Both councils meeting the same week.

*Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights
Of April 14, 2026*

Present: Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Mark Moyer, Chuck Miller, Nancy Tinder, Randy Tinder, Brian Fann, Noah Reshan, Pastor Emily

Minutes from the March Council meeting were presented & unanimously approved.

***Financial reports** March report was presented & unanimously approved.

***Pastor Emily's reports were presented and included:**

Proposal for "A year of listening"

Next month we'll begin meeting on the 3rd Tuesday.

***Old Business:**

Trying to find people to fill our Mosaic Table.

QR code is available for use

Need to set up Tithley account

Update: Account is set up

***New Business:**

Need to find 2 voting members for Synod Assembly

Update: Thanks Ed and Janie Williams for volunteering!

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





TAKE-ALONG PAGE

121 People
Served in March

148 People
Served in April

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

God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help

Thursday, May 14 and Thursday, May 28 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 <u>Dollar Tree</u> :
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 - Jello	*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 to do not come that way.

NO EXPIRED FOOD

Thank you!

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 11 AM - Worship	4	5	6 9 AM - Breakfast Club @ Perkins 4:15 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace	7 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	8	9
10 11 AM - Worship	11	12 10:30 AM - New members class @ Grace	13 4:15 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace	14 10-11 AM - God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	15	16
17 11 AM - Worship	18	19 6:30 PM - Augustana council meeting	20 4:15 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace	21 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	22	23
24 11 AM - Worship	25	26 10:30 AM - New members class @ Augustana 2 PM - Bible Study @ Grace	27 4:15 PM - Confirmation Class @ Grace	28 10-11 AM - God's Gifts Pantry Noon - Lunch Bunch @ Baker's Nook 4 PM - Holy Communion @ Grace	29	30
31 11 AM - Combined Worship Bible Study after worship						

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Website: www.augustanaelkhart.org

Augustana Mission Statement:

As the Body of Christ, we are called to Love All, Serve All, Welcome All