



Augustana News

September 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

The new calendar year may officially begin in January, but this time of year always feels like a new year to me! I don't know if it's growing up in a family full of teachers or the many years of formal school I had in preparation to be a pastor, but there is always a real sense of newness in the last weeks of August and into September. A new school year is beginning, and much in the life of our congregations is new at this time of year too, as old ministries start back up and new ones kick off.

I'm so grateful for the time we've taken this summer to get to know one another, and for everyone who hosted or participated in one of our "get to know you" gatherings. I have so enjoyed hearing about your lives beyond our churches, and stories of how you first came here. You have shared with me what you already love about these places, and what your hopes and dreams for the future are.

It was fascinating to see the same themes emerge time and again in conversation with different people across our two different congregations. You all love our liturgical worship, the familiar pattern that guides us in worship on Sunday mornings, across seasons of the year, and through the seasons of life. You love the good old hymns (me too!). You like throwing in something new or creative every now and then, and appreciate the special services and occasions celebrated throughout the year. You love the people you worship, volunteer, and form friendships with at church. And many of you love the ways our congregations reach out to help people in our community, across differences, welcoming all.

You have some similar hopes for our churches' futures too! I don't think any group failed to say they hope for more people in church, especially more families with children. You hope to find new ways to be relevant in our local community, and more ways to assist those in need. You hope for our music ministries to be revitalized. And some of you brave souls even hope to find new ways to collaborate more closely in shared ministry.

When it comes to what's new this fall, we will lean into those hopes and dreams you shared.

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(Dear Friends—Continued from Page 1)

- ♦ Our new music director, Alex Jeffirs, officially begins in her full role with us this month. We will join together in a combined choir that sings in both churches. Look for her updates! And don't miss the return of Bell Choir at Grace.
- ♦ We are amid finalizing curriculum and recruiting teachers for a new Children's Church process at both Augustana and Grace. This will serve children in pre-K through 5th grade, and will take place during part of Sunday morning worship. Invite a child in your life to come join us! We are building this just for them! Class will begin at the end of September or the first of October.
- ♦ Changes in Augustana's sanctuary are already unfolding as we create a new "Prayground" in the sanctuary, an area with books, soft toys, comfy seating, and other items to keep infants and toddlers occupied while their parents get to stay engaged in worship. Grace's own Prayground will be soon to follow. In my experience in past churches, creating a Prayground has been the #1 thing to encourage visiting families with young children to stay. It is a bold statement to them that they, and their children, belong!

Join us for worship on September 7th! A few weeks ago we had a back-to-school blessing, but on this day there will be blessings for all of us. For our life in the world as we go out to share the love of God we know, in ways old and new.

Happy "new year"!
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***

* Please call for an appointment.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ 9am—3pm

Tuesday &
Wednesday ~ 1—4pm



| September 7 - Pentecost 13 | September 14 - Pentecost 14 | September 21 - Pentecost 15 | September 28 - Pentecost 16 |
|---|--|--|---|
| Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33 | Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10 | Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13 | Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-9 Luke 16:19-31 2 |

September Fellowship Opportunities

FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

Wednesday, September 3 ~ 9 AM

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

LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH Thursday, September 25 ~ Noon

Come and join your Augustana friends for lunch at **our new location:**

Baker's Nook Café
127 Easy Shopping Place, Elkhart

Bring a friend or neighbor with you. *Phone your reservation and the number coming to the church office by Tuesday, September 23.*

September HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, September 3 -

Breakfast Club at Perkins

Tuesday, September 9 -

Augustana Church Council Meeting

Thursday, September 11 -

God's Gifts Pantry

Monday, September 15 -

Joint Council Meeting

Friday, September 19 -

Game Night at Grace

Monday, September 22-

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, September 25-

God's Gifts Pantry

Thursday, September 25 -

Lunch Bunch at Baker's Nook Café

Friday, September 26

through Saturday 27 -

Camp Lutherwald Women's Retreat

School Supply Donations:

We're continuing to collect supplies through September 14! Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated.

Just as our students and teachers brought bags for blessing earlier this month, we are inviting our whole congregation to bring the "tools of their trade" for a blessing on Sunday, September 7. Toolboxes, knitting bags, craft totes, briefcases, backpacks, lunchboxes, and more are welcome.

Or just bring yourself and be blessed for your call to do God's work in the world!

PRAYER LIST

*Please contact us
with updates,
praises,
& requests.*

Health Concerns

- Ken Davis
- Sister Nora Frost

Other concerns

- The family of Tim Ball, and all who mourn
- Military Service Members

BUILT ON A ROCK
“Weathering the Storms of Life”
(and the Sunny Days too!)

WOMEN’S RETREAT with PASTOR VICKI GARBER

September 26-27, 2025

North Central Cluster, IK Synod, Women of the ELCA is blessed to host a Retreat at Camp Lutherwald, Kempfski Center in Howe, Indiana led by Pastor Vicki Garber. Her past retreats have been awesome, and this too will spiritually nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits. Come for all or any portion of this event that you can attend.

Cost – FREE for the day. Synodical Women’s Group is covering \$10 of the total cost for rooms. Each person will pay \$50 to spend the night. Donations will be excepted and financial assistance available upon request. The center is handicapped accessible.

Arrival begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26. Dinner will be provided. Breakfast and Lunch will also be provided on Saturday, September 27. A Thrivent grant will be used to defray some of the expense and a freewill offering will be taken.

As a service project, we would like to help camp, if possible but not required, please bring a regular sized pillow – cheap ones acceptable.

Schedule:

3:00 PM -Arrive – twin/queen beds – handicapped accessible

Session 1 Introduction led by Pastor Vicki Garber

6:00 PM – Dinner

Session 2

8:00 AM – Breakfast

Session 3

Lunch

Session 4

Worship/Closing, followed by 3:00 – Return Home

SEPTEMBER 2025 SERVER SCHEDULE

September 7 – Pentecost 13

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Diane Erickson
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Randy Tinder
Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

September 14 – Pentecost 14

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Jerry Duck
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

September 21 – Pentecost 15

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder
Lector: Nancy Tinder
Server: Cayden Abner
Technology Server: Mark Moyer
Ushers: Janet Moyer & Deb Rowland

September 28 – Pentecost 16

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Mark Moyer
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Randy Tinder
Ushers: Gina Iannarelli & Emily Moyer

July Altar Guild

Jerry & Doris Koontz

Please let the office know of any changes.



Pick up your *free* copy of the
Word in Season at church!

September Altar Flowers



September 7 – Given by Jerry Duck

September 14 – Patty Turner

In honor of son, Kenny

September 21– Gunnar and Diane Erickson

September 28– Given by Gina Iannarelli

In Memory of Amy Miller

If the Altar Flowers are not sponsored, there will be no flowers. Two floral bouquets total \$25. 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 \$25. Thank you.

Financial and Attendance Report

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

***Information thru August 26, 2025*

| Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement | Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund |
|--|--|
| \$95,515.00 | \$59,746.26 |
| August Monthly Budget Requirement | August Actual Offering to General Fund |
| \$11,940.00 | \$4,931.00 |
| SEPTEMBER Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement | Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date |
| \$11,940.00 | \$131.00 |
| August Average Sunday In-Person Attendance | August Average Sunday Facebook Attendance |
| 36 | 3 |

**Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights
Of August 12, 2025**

Present: Jerry Duck, Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Dave Ermis, Chuck Miller, Maralee Macumber, Mark Moyer, Nancy Tinder, Randy Tinder, Pastor Emily

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

***Financial reports** from June and July were presented, we are behind budget.
Reports were unanimously approved.

***Pastor Emily's reports** were presented.
She is very happy about our new hires. Plans for youth and families are in the works for fall.

***Unfinished Business:**
New phones - New phones are working great!
Work Day will be postponed.

***New Business:**
Annual Meeting Date - November 9th
Stewardship Campaign: Goals for 2026 Pledges to go in Newsletter

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



God's Gifts Pantry ~
2nd & 4th Thursdays ~ 10-11 AM

We set a new record for pantry guests on August 14!

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, September 11 and **Thursday, September 25** 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.



171 People
Served in August

The following items are needed:

Canned chicken or tuna
Canned fruits & vegetables
Cereal & Oatmeal
Ritz or other crackers in sleeves
Pork and Beans
Boxes or bags of rice
Boxed potatoes
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Spaghetti or other pasta
Canned spaghetti sauce (red) - no glass jars
Cake mixes and frosting
Pudding - Jello
Cookies (individually wrapped)
Juice - no glass jars
Non-dairy milk
Cooking oil - butter

Toothpaste & toothbrushes
Shampoo
Toilet Paper & Kleenex
Dish Soap & Laundry Detergent (not pods)
Cleaning supplies

*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.
NO GLASS JARS and NO EXPIRED FOOD

September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 9 AM-Breakfast Club at Perkins | 4 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace | 5 | 6 |
| 7 11 AM-Worship Blessings for all in worship | 8 | 9 6:30 PM- Augustana Council Meeting | 10 | 11 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace | 2 | 13 |
| 4 11 AM-Worship | 15 6:30 PM-Joint Council Meeting | 16 | 17 | 18 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace | 19 5:30 PM-8PM Game Night @ Grace | 20 |
| 21 11 AM-Worship | 22 Newsletter Articles Deadline | 23 | 24 | 25 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry Noon- Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Cafe 4 PM-Holy Communion at | 26 Camp Lutherwald Women's Retreat | 27 Camp Lutherwald Women's Retreat |
| 28 11 AM-Worship | 29 | 30 | | | * Join us each Sunday morning for Fellowship in the Narthex before & after worship. | |

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.*