



# Augustana News

## October 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lately, it seems like I can't escape the claim that Americans are *too polarized*. Pundits, podcasters, and personal acquaintances all cry out that those with different beliefs don't live near one another, talk to one another, or even care about one another anymore. And with the rise of political violence in our country, disagreement about how to protect our children from school shootings, conflict over how or even if to welcome immigrants, and many more controversies to point out, it is hard to brush off this claim entirely.

Yet I also think there's a lot of evidence against that claim. And it's sitting in our pews every Sunday. Each week in worship, we have folks in our pews from one end of the political spectrum to the other and at many points in between. There are people who would never dream of voting for others' candidate of choice. There are folks who pay attention to vastly different media outlets. There are those among us who try their hardest to avoid politics entirely, too.

Politics aren't our only difference. This season of transition in our church brings to the front the vast range of commitments people have when it comes to our ministries: those who desperately want more children in church and those who could do without the hassle, those who long to try new music and mix things up in worship and those who want to stick to the "oldies," those who think ministries of service like our food pantries are most important and those who crave a focus on faith development through things like bible studies.

This isn't even to mention our combined worship Sundays. On those Sundays, we bridge perhaps the greatest polarization we face—the divide between Augustana and Grace!

I think those who believe Americans are too polarized to get along haven't spent much time in a church pew lately, at least not in the pews of a mainline Protestant church like ours. Each Sunday we walk through the sanctuary doors and sit down with folks who don't think the same way we do. We don't hold exactly the same beliefs, we don't have the same experience of God, and we don't live out our discipleship of Jesus in the same way. But somehow we manage to sit down together and sing the same hymns and say the same prayers and receive the same body and blood in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We allow God to form us into one community despite our differences.

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*(Dear Friends—Continued from Page 1)*

And I believe we are better and stronger people of faith, and better and stronger churches, because of it. I know it's not all sunshine and roses, though. It is *hard* to live with those with whom you may profoundly disagree. It takes work, patience, and forgiveness. It requires learning how to stand firm in your own convictions while respecting others. But because we put in the hard work, we are living examples of a better way for the rest of our nation and the rest of our world. We don't have to put anyone through a litmus test of belief or affiliation, because we know that at God's table all have a place. We don't have to dismiss someone because they disagree with us, because we understand that difference is an inherent part of God's creation. We don't have to storm off or kick someone out because a mistake has been made, because we know God calls us to forgiveness and reconciliation. This is the way of life Jesus modeled for us, and it's the way we strive to follow as his disciples.

When we don't have to focus so much on all of that, it frees up a lot of energy to focus on the many things we do have in common: The love of God poured out freely for each of us. The sacred story of scripture (which, by the way, doesn't endorse *any* modern political party). The Gospel's clear call to love and serve our neighbors. The love we each have for our families, friends, and community. Our need for care in the difficult moments of life, and our need to celebrate when we experience joy, and the way we can support one another in both of these times.

There is a common saying about the autumn season that goes something like, "Fall teaches us how beautiful it is to let things go." Perhaps as the leaves change to shades of red and gold around us and the trees let go, we can let go of a few things too. Maybe we can leave assumptions about one another or our world at the church doors on Sunday, and enter the holy mystery into which God invites us.

I'll see you there!  
Pastor Emily

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### **Mark Your Calendar: Annual Meeting November 9**

November 9 will be our Annual Congregational Meeting at Augustana. At this yearly meeting, we vote on the budget, elect new council members, and take on the business side of being church together. More information will come to all members of the congregation in the mail, but you can mark your calendar now. See you there!

**Children's Church begins October 5:** We are ready to kick off our new "Sunday School" class for kids in pre-K through 5th grade. Children's Church will take place during a part of Sunday morning worship each week while school is in session. After the Children's Message, kids will be dismissed with teachers for a lesson that helps them engage the bible on their level, connecting stories to their life with interaction and fun! Kids will return to worship prior to Holy Communion. Invite a child you know!

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**Confirmation Class begins Monday, October 6:**

We are thrilled to kick off a new Confirmation Class in collaboration with St. John's Episcopal Church, where we will meet on Monday evenings 6:15-7:45 PM. Our first 8 week session will go until November 24 and focus on the Bible, primarily Old Testament stories to begin. There is still room for more students! Speak to Pastor Emily if a young person you know in grades 7-8 is interested.

**Fall Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew: Share your availability please!**

Pastor Emily is planning a fall bible study on the Gospel of Matthew and wants to know what days and times work best for those interested in joining us. If you have any interest in participating, please take a moment to share your availability by taking this one question survey: <https://tinyurl.com/2bk7r9v4>. We can have 2 sessions at different times, one at Augustana and one at Grace, if there is sufficient interest. This bible study will consist of 4-6 sessions and each session will be about an hour. Thanks for helping us in our planning!

**Fall Work Day at LUTHERWALD!**

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 9 AM – 2 PM, everyone is welcome to the Fall Service Day at Camp Lutherwald! Rain or shine, there will be projects for EVERYONE: Deep cleaning, window washing, leaf removal, winterizing waterfronts, trail trimming, log splitting, and more. Your service makes a difference! Donuts, coffee, and lunch provided. RSVP to the church office with the number in your party and any project preferences by Wednesday, October 15.

**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 ~ 9 AM—3 PM

Tuesday & Wednesday  
1 PM—4 PM



October 5 - Pentecost 17	October 12 - Pentecost 18	October 19 - Pentecost 19	October 26 - Reformation Sunday
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	2 Kings 5:1=3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

## October Fellowship Opportunities

### FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

**Wednesday, October 1 ~ 9 AM**

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

### LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

**Thursday, October 23 ~ Noon**

Come and join your Augustana friends for lunch at:

**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, October 21.*

### October HAPPENINGS

**Wednesday, October 1 -**

Breakfast Club at Perkins

**Thursday, October 9 -**

God's Gifts Pantry

**Monday, October 13 -**

Newsletter Deadline

**Tuesday, October 14 -**

Augustana Church Council Meeting

**Friday, October 17 -**

Game Night at Grace

**Thursday, October 23-**

God's Gifts Pantry

**Thursday, October 23-**

Lunch Bunch at Baker's Nook Café

***\* Join us each  
Sunday morning  
for Fellowship in  
the Narthex before  
& after worship.***



Choir Rehearsals will be  
Wednesdays from 7-8:30 PM  
Our first rehearsal will be  
Wednesday, October 1st at  
Grace.

### PRAYER LIST

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

#### Health Concerns

Ken Davis  
Sister Nora Frost  
Dave Paston  
Gina Iannarelli

#### Other concerns

Military Service  
Members

## OCTOBER 2025 SERVER SCHEDULE

### **October 5 – Pentecost 17**

*Assisting Minister:* Nancy Tinder  
*Lector:* Nancy Tinder  
*Server:* Leah Moyer  
*Technology Server:* Cayden Abner  
*Ushers:* Gunnar & Diane Erickson

### **October 12 – Pentecost 18**

*Assisting Minister:* Mark Moyer  
*Lector:* Jerry Duck  
*Server:* Cayden Abner  
*Technology Server:* Randy Tinder  
*Ushers:* Dave & Janet Ermis

### **October 19 – Pentecost 19**

*Assisting Minister:* Maralee Macumber  
*Lector:* Maralee Macumber  
*Server:* George Scupham  
*Technology Server:* Mark Moyer  
*Ushers:* Ed & Janie Williams

### **October 26 – Reformation Sunday**

*Assisting Minister:* Nancy Tinder  
*Lector:* Nancy Tinder  
*Server:* Leah Moyer  
*Technology Server:* Randy Tinder  
*Ushers:* Deb Rowland & Janet Moyer

### **October Altar Guild**

Nancy Tinder & Gina Iannarelli

*Please let the office know of any changes.*



The Word in Season devotional booklets for October, November, & December have arrived.

Pick up your *free* copy!

## October Altar Flowers



October 5 – Given by Judy & Jerry Duck  
 For Anniversary

October 12 – Available

October 19 – Available

October 26 – Available

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 September 22, 2025

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$104,470.00	\$64,393.76
September Monthly Budget Requirement	September Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,940.00	\$4,272.50
OCTOBER Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$11,940.00	\$131.00
September Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	September Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
34	3

## **Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of September 15, 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 August Council meeting were presented & unanimously approved.

**\*Financial reports** from August were presented, we are behind budget.  
We will vote on the 2026 Budget at the October meeting.  
Discussed moving money from other accounts to general fund.  
Reports were unanimously approved.

**\*Pastor Emily's reports** were presented.  
Discussed the possibility of participating in the Synod's e-connect program  
and agreed to attend a Zoom meeting on 1/22.

### **\*Unfinished Business:**

Pioneer Faith Ministries received a door key.  
Mark will get a hold of Jack about work day at Lutherwald.  
Annual Meeting Date - November 9th.  
Budget Meeting - October Council meeting.

### **\*New Business:**

We went through the church directory to identify people to reach out to.

**September was a joint council meeting at Grace** – where we discussed shared outreach:

- \* Collecting blessing bags – November 8th.
- \* Combined Worship Service – November 30th
- \* Christmas Caroling – possibly December 7th
- \* "Longest Night" Service – December 21st

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





# Take-Along Page

247 People  
Served in September

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

## **God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help**

**Thursday, October 9** and **Thursday, October 23** 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  
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

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**

# October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 9 AM-Breakfast Club at Perkins	2 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	3	4
5 11 AM-Worship Sunday School kickoff	6 6:15 PM-7:45 PM Confirmation class at St. John's Episcopal Church	7	8	9 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	10	11
12 11 AM-Worship	13 6:15 PM-7:45 PM Confirmation class at St. John's Episcopal Church * Newsletter Articles Deadline	14 6:30 PM- Augustana Council Meeting	15 Deadline for Fall Service Day	16 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	17 5:30 PM-8PM Game Night @ Grace	18
19 11 AM-Worship	20 6:15 PM-7:45 PM Confirmation class at St. John's Episcopal Church	21	22	23 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry Noon- Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Cafe 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	24	25 9 AM-2 PM— Fall Service Day at Camp Lutherwald
26 11 AM-Worship	27 6:15 PM-7:45 PM Confirmation class at St. John's Episcopal Church	28	29	30	31	



# CROSSWORD



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**Augustana Mission Statement:**

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