



Augustana News

February 2025

I Corinthians 13 NRSV

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the last four weeks we have been studying parts of I Corinthians to get a better idea of what it means to be the Body of Christ. Our study is concluding with I Corinthians 13 which we know as the “Love Chapter” which is often used at weddings and even sometimes at funerals. What we learned is that the word love occurs 686 times in the Bible with 425 coming in the Old Testament and 261 in the New Testament.

According to the Bible there are four types of Christian love: **Agape** (unconditional, divine love). This is the type of love that Jesus showered upon us. **Phileo** (brotherly love seen in friendships). Philadelphia is known to be the city of brotherly love. Then there is **Storge** (family love or affection). This is the love a parent has for a child, a child shows to a parent, and that siblings have for each other. Lastly is **Eros** known as romantic or passionate love. This type of love is expressed by husband and wife, those who are engaged to be married, and those who are intimately involved with a partner.

**Love...
whatever
the cost.**

(Continued on Page 2)

(Dear Friends—Continued from Page 1)

This is the making of a great St. Valentine's Day as many people celebrate it on February 14th with sweet treats, heartfelt gifts, romantic dinners. Even as children we made little Valentine's Day cards for everyone in our class and slipped them into a white paper sack which had each classmate's name on it. And we made sure that the perfect words were on the heart-shaped candy that we picked out, especially for our favorite friends. It was easy, or maybe I should say easier, to love when we were children since we didn't realize all the reasons people could give us not to love them.

As adults I do not believe that any of us are surprised that humanity as a whole finds the kind of love described in I Corinthians 13 difficult. As humans (fallen, sinful, and sometimes broken) it is difficult for us to "bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things" as love does. Do we who call ourselves Christians, who have been cleansed in the waters of Baptism, who have been given a new life and a new heart in Christ, and are able to make use of the guidance of the Holy Spirit for each decision we make...still find it so difficult to love God with our whole being and love our neighbors anywhere as much as we love ourselves?

In the sermon on January 26, I said that Jesus tapped into the power of the Spirit in order to heal and help all kinds of people, and the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to love like Jesus loved which is impossible without the Spirit. According to the New Testament, learning to love like Jesus loved is hard, hard work, and requires us to deny ourselves what WE might want in order to DO what Jesus asks of us. It means not just putting behind us but, in fact, putting to death the sin that so easily creeps into our lives. It means that each day we die to anything and everything that keeps us from loving the Lord and all creatures great and small. It means we try with all our very being to be humble rather than selfish and self-centered. It means being compassionate, kind, gentle, caring, helpful, forgiving, and genuine. It means not seeking retribution or revenge or harboring evil thoughts or trying to get even.

The costliness of agape is evident in the cross of Christ. Those who resolve to take up their cross resolve to love as Christ loved, in a costly manner. When we begin to really follow Christ, we resolve to love God even if it costs us...and it will cost us...our pride, our comfort, our self-will, our self-sufficiency, and at times our amicable relationships with our family, friends or neighbors. But in laying these aside, we learn the worthiness of the object of our love in a deeper way. As we mature as Christians, we resolve to love God **NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS**. Then and only then can we begin to follow Christ in this amazing way which moves us to love our neighbors even if it costs us...and it will...our preferences, our time, our financial resources, our entitlement, and our stereotypes. At times it may cost us our popularity or respect. But by laying these things aside, we learn the brokenness of the object of our love in deeper way. As we mature in being a Christian, we resolve to love our neighbor no matter what it costs us. This is the kind of love that makes us different from the world's love. In every situation let us ask ourselves, "Am I loving the way Jesus has first loved me?"

Oh, and Happy Valentine's Day.

In Christ's love and service,

Sister Nora



If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. — 1 CORINTHIANS 13:2-3 NIV



February 2 - Presentation of Our Lord Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 St. Luke 2:22-24	February 9 - Epiphany 5 Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 I Corinthians 15:1-11 St. Luke 5:1-11	February 16 - Epiphany 6 Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 I Corinthians 15:12-20 St. Luke 6:17-26	February 23 - Epiphany 7 Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 St. Luke 6:27-38
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Pastoral Information

Sister Nora Frost, Interim Minister

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 or Sister Nora directly. 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.



PRAYER LIST

Please contact us with updates, praises, & requests.

Health Concerns

- Judy Duck
- Sharon Butler
- Deb Ludlow
- Zach Havens, Nichole Metz' cousin's son
- Ken Davis, Deb Rowland's son-in-law
- Mike Iavagnilio
- Jimmy Reilly
- Barbara Hillyer
- June, mother of Melanie Watson
- Roy Powell
- Lisa Truhn
- Wendy Brandt
- Susie Stevenson, Jerry Duck's sister
- Delia Murillo
- Eric Drummond
- Debbie Ridenour

Health Concerns continued

- Fred Dunfee, John Metz' friend
- Stacyann, Fred Dunfee's daughter

Those Who Mourn

- Families of:
- Dave Lipp
- Pastor Loren VanOort
- Helen Hemund
- Cheryl Avery & Family

Other concerns

- Victims of war, violence, natural disasters
- Pioneer Faith Ministries Council & Call Committee
- Future Pastor

**Don't fret or worry.
 Instead of worrying, pray.
 Let petitions and praises shape your
 worries into prayers,
 letting God know your concerns.
 ~ Philippians 4:6 MSG**

FEBRUARY 2025 SERVER SCHEDULE

February 2 – Presentation of Our Lord

Assisting Minister: Scott Watson

Lector: Scott Watson

Server: Jill Scupham

Technology Server: Cayden Abner

Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

February 9 – Epiphany 5

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder

Lector: Diane Erickson

Server: George Scupham

Technology Server: Mark Moyer

Ushers: Deb Rowland

February 16 – Epiphany 6

Assisting Minister: Nancy Tinder

Lector: Nancy Tinder

Server: Dorothy Moyer

Technology Server: Jack Watson

Ushers: Gunnar & Diane Erickson

February 23 – Epiphany 7

Assisting Minister: Scott Watson

Lector: Scott Watson

Server: Cayden Abner

Technology Server: Mark Moyer

Ushers: Janet Moyer & Deb Rowland

February Altar Guild

Emily Moyer & Heidi Scupham

February Altar Flowers

February 2 – Given by Sister Nora
In Memory of Lucile Frost

February 9 – Available

February 16 – Available

February 23 – Given by
Gunnar & Diane Erickson
In Celebration of their
60th Wedding Anniversary



There are many slots available for sponsorship. Please sign up to sponsor altar flowers 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.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Please pick up a copy and
take some time to fill out the
**Short- and Long-term
Planning Questionnaire.**

Bring it back to the church office by slipping it
into the office mail slot between the glass doors
across from the kitchen door.



“Souper Bowl” Sunday February 9

Everyone please bring a can or two
of soup for the pantry.



Augustana Work Day Saturday, February 1, 9:00 AM

Bring your hammers &
tools as we work to
repair interior water damage, lights,
and other projects.
See you there!

Financial/ Attendance Report

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

**Information thru January 27, 2025

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$11,935.00	\$5,265.98
January Monthly Budget Requirement	January Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,935.00	\$5,265.98
FEBRUARY Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$11,940.00	\$0.00
January Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	January Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
Building Fund Roof Repair Goal	Building Fund Roof Repair Year-to-Date Giving
\$55,147.00	\$7,635.00

Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of December 10, 2024

Present: Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Dave Ermis, Gina Iannarelli, Maralee Macumber, Chuck Miller, Mark Moyer, Sister Nora

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

***Financial reports** from November were presented and unanimously approved.

***Sister Nora's reports** were presented. Book studies have had a good response. The Confirmation Class will be rescheduled for two people.

***Unfinished Business:**

Organist Update - The schedule is filled to May. The organ was tuned on December 5.

New Roof work is slated to begin in spring.

Interior Repairs will be done in early 2025.

Building Fund - Building Fund envelopes will be used to reimburse the \$55,147.00 that was spent on the new roof. Updates on Roof Repair giving will be in the Newsletter.

Copier - Monthly copier charges were adjusted to reflect our current usage. Quarterly usage updates will be reported.

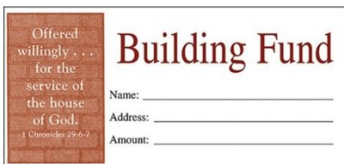
***New Business:**

Spring Women's Retreat dates are May 16-17 at Camp Lutherwald.

Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry Transition - Pastor Priscilla Geerdes is Pastor Dan Forehand's replacement. It was suggested that she be invited to come and meet with the congregation in regard to a pastor call.

Living Lutheran Magazine - Decision was made to continue one copy of the magazine.

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



Building Fund Envelopes

Please use these Building Fund Envelopes found in the pews and

narthex for your offerings to help reimburse roof repair costs. If you are unable to make it to church, you may mail in your offering check noting "Roof Repair" on the memo line. Monthly updates in meeting our goal are listed in the above chart. Thank you.

Did you know???

- ◆ Breathe easier! Five gas leaks were fixed at Augustana on January 23.
- ◆ Snow-bones are the lines of snow or ice left at the sides of roads after the rest of the snow has melted.

February Fellowship Opportunities



Sunday, February 2 1st Sunday Meal-a-Month

Please plan to stay after worship for food and fellowship. You are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors with you!

The main course will be provided, and persons should sign up in the narthex to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

February Game Night

For Augustana & Grace

Friday, February 21 ~ 5:30-8:00 PM

Grace Fellowship Hall

Pizza & beverage provided. Bring snacks.

Games provided but welcome to bring your favorite game with you.

Questions? Contact Grace Church at

574-294-1951

FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

Wednesday, February 5 ~ 9 AM

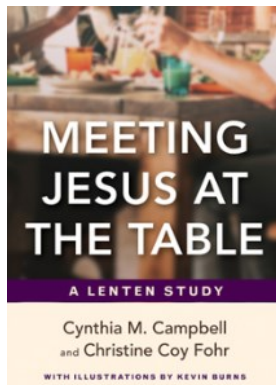
Meet at Perkins on Cassopolis Street.
Call Deb Rowland for reservations.

LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, February 27 ~ Noon

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. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. *Phone your reservation and the number coming to the church office by Tuesday, February 25.*

Upcoming Lenten Book Study Opportunity Begins March 4!



“Meeting Jesus at the Table”

During this six-week study we will look at Jesus sharing meals with His disciples, friends, even tax collectors and sinners. We will examine Biblical insights and explore thought-provoking questions regarding our own time of meal sharing: whom do we invite and who is left out in our culture. Each chapter includes group discussion questions as well as personal reflections. Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, former President of McCormick Seminary and retired Presbyterian Pastor from Louisville, Kentucky, is co-author of this book with Rev. Christine Fohr who presently serves at Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church in Kentucky.

Cost of the book is \$8.00. Please sign up in the narthex.

Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 PM Grace Lutheran Church	Session Chapters	Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 PM Augustana Lutheran Church
March 4	Introduction & Chapter 1	March 6
March 11	Chapter 2	March 13
March 18	Chapter 3	March 20
March 25	Chapter 4	March 27
April 1	Chapters 5 & 6	April 3
April 8	Chapters 7 & 8	April 10

February Worship Opportunities

4:00 PM - Holy Communion -
Each Wednesday at Grace

6:30 PM - Wednesday, February 19
Holden Evening Prayer at Augustana

Blessing Bags Coordinator *STILL* Needed

There is a need for a volunteer to coordinate the Blessing Bags outreach. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be the coordinator then let the office know. A list of the processes and responsibilities is now available in the office if you would like to view it prior to making that decision. Thank you.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, February 8, 10am-3pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
226 W Lexington Avenue Elkhart

Fellow Women of the Body of Christ,
(Men, please share this information
with the women in your life.)

Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.
During this Women's Retreat, we will
learn about different types of prayer
and fellowship with other women.
Lunch will be ordered from McAllis-
ter's. The cost is \$15 to cover the cost
of lunch. You may also bring a lunch if
you would prefer.

9:30-10am-Gather, get coffee, & greet
10 am - Introductions
10:15am-12:30 pm- Beginning session
on Prayer

12:30-1:15pm - Lunch
2:30 pm - Eucharist

Use this link to register [https://
forms.gle/WeAf5pHQPzEXKUqd6](https://forms.gle/WeAf5pHQPzEXKUqd6)
or email the office at
stjohnselkhart@gmail.com

Share this information with women in
your life and invite them to join you
for the retreat. Let us know if you want
to come and need a ride.



Looking Ahead

Sunday, March 2 - After worship -
1st Sunday Meal a Month

Tuesday, March 4 - 6-Week Lenten Book Study Begins!
1:30PM Tuesdays at Grace
6:30 PM Thursdays at Augustana

Ash Wednesday, March 5 - Breakfast Club at Perkins

Tuesday, March 11 - Augustana Church Council Meeting

Thursday, March 13 - God's Gifts Pantry

Wednesday, March 19 - Holden Evening Prayer
- Newsletter Articles Deadline

Friday, March 21 - Game Night at Grace

Sunday, March 23 - Bishop Graham Preaching
- Joint Council with Joint Call Com-
mittee Meeting

Thursday, March 27 - God's Gifts Pantry
- Lunch Bunch at The Golden Egg

**All Wednesdays in March - 4 PM - Service of Holy
Communion at Grace**

**May 16 & 17—Women's Spring Retreat—
Details to follow!**

ELCA News ~ ELCA Presiding Bishop Issues Pastoral Message on Executive Orders

Dear church,

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, "[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread."^[1]

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message "[Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#)," which states on page 7: "To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?"

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the [ELCA Witness in Society Team](#) with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with [AMMPARO](#), the ELCA's strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all. May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Click on the following link to read her follow-up article:

[Presiding Bishop Eaton Issues Statement on Immigration Executive Orders](#)

Or type into your search engine:

<https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/presiding-bishop-eaton-issues-statement-on-immigration-executive-orders>

Augustana Lutheran Church

1133 Kilbourn Street

Elkhart IN 46514

Phone: 574-294-3823

E-mail: secretary@augustana.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.augustanaelkhart.org

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ 8AM-Noon

Tuesday ~ 10:30AM-1:30PM

Wednesday ~ 8AM-Noon

Thursday ~ 8AM-Noon

Friday ~ OFFICE CLOSED

GOD'S GIFTS PANTRY

Sack of food & personal items
distribution every 2nd & 4th
Thursday of the month.

Augustana Mission Statement:

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



Take-Along Page

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

196 People

Served in January

God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help

Thursday, January 9, and Thursday, January 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
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

February 2025

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p align="center">Join us each Sunday morning for Fellowship in the Narthex before & after worship.</p>						<p align="center">1</p> <p align="center">9:00 AM- Augustana Work Day</p>
<p align="center">2</p> <p>11 AM-Worship Presentation of Our Lord</p> <p>12:15 PM - 1st Sunday Meal-a-Month</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p align="center">4</p>	<p align="center">5</p> <p>9 AM-Breakfast Club at Perkins</p> <p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p>	<p align="center">6</p>	<p align="center">7</p>	<p align="center">8</p> <p>9:00 AM-3:00 PM Women's Retreat at St. John's Episcopal</p>
<p align="center">9</p> <p>11 AM-Worship</p>	<p align="center">10</p>	<p align="center">11</p> <p>6:30 PM- Augustana Council Meeting</p>	<p align="center">12</p> <p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p>	<p align="center">13</p> <p>10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry</p>	<p align="center">14</p> 	<p align="center">15</p>
<p align="center">16</p> <p>11 AM-Worship</p>	<p align="center">17</p>	<p align="center">18</p> <p>8:45 AM - Noon Ministerium Meeting</p>	<p align="center">19</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Deadline</p> <p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p> <p>6:30 PM-Holden Evening Prayer</p>	<p align="center">20</p>	<p align="center">21</p> <p>5:30-8 PM-Game Night at Grace</p>	<p align="center">22</p>
<p align="center">23</p> <p>11 AM-Worship</p>	<p align="center">24</p>	<p align="center">25</p>	<p align="center">26</p> <p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p>	<p align="center">27</p> <p>10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry</p> <p>Noon-Lunch Bunch at The Golden Egg</p>	<p align="center">28</p>	

