



Augustana News

March 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Though it seems like the Christmas decorations were just taken down, the fact is that March 5th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our 40-day Lenten journey to Easter. This is an opportunity for us to dig deeper and take on some practices which can help strengthen our faith and bring us closer to Christ. In this newsletter you will find Daily Lenten Helps for each day of Lent. It will provide you with a scripture to read and a prompt or idea of something to do or pray/meditate about throughout the day for each day of Lent. You will also find a sheet of all the Lenten offerings (times and place).

I want to remind you that there is still time to pick up a book for the book study. Join up on Tuesdays at Grace at 1:30 PM or Thursday at 6:30 PM at Augustana. Our book will be "Meeting Jesus at the Table." There are four books left between the two churches, so please let me know if you would like one.

Every month we print the reading in the newsletter and bulletin for the upcoming Sundays: a lesson from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament lesson, and a lesson from one of the four Gospels. You may or may not read them before the upcoming Sunday; but during this season of Lent, I would ask you to engage in a process we call Lectio Divina. Choose one of the four readings for the Sunday and then choose a word or phrase of the scripture you want to pray. Try not to predetermine or set a goal for where you want this prayer time to go. It is in God's hands, not ours.

First, READ. Read the text slowly and savor each word, constantly listening for a word or phrase which somehow God seems to be lifting up to you. Don't expect a lightning-bolt experience. In Lectio Divina God is teaching us to listen and to seek him in silence. God doesn't reach out and grab us or shake us but rather invites us to come more deeply into His presence.

Second, PONDER. Take the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize it, slowly repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, thoughts, and ideas. Do not be afraid of distractions. Memories and thoughts are simply parts of who you are. When they rise up during Lectio Divina just give them up to God along with all the rest of your inner self. Allow this time of pondering to bring you into a dialogue with God. From the text in front of you, tell God what is on your mind and then listen for God to respond. It may take some time for the dialogue to begin but dialogue always has to start somewhere... listening intently is a good place to start.

Third, PRAY. Whether you use words, images, ideas or all three – that is not what is important. Interact in this prayer time with this word or phrase you have chosen as you would with your closest friend or with someone who has known, loved, and accepted you. Give to God what you have or have discovered during your reading, pondering and meditating. Give to God something new which you have found in your heart. Don't evaluate the experience. The first few times may feel uncomfortable; but the more you do this type of prayer, the more familiar and comfortable it feels. The goal of Lectio Divina is to simply be in the presence of God.

(Continued on Page 2)

Read

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Ponder

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Pray

~

Be

(Dear Friends—Continued from Page 1)

My prayer for each of us during this Lenten Season 2025 is that we will take the time to Read, Ponder, and Pray with the Word of God to come closer to God and be in God’s presence more frequently. Marty Haugen wrote a hymn (music & text) in 1950 that has sustained me through many Lenten Seasons. It is found as hymn 334 in our worship book and has nine stanzas. I leave you with four of those stanzas from “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery.”

1. Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn, still you rise with every morn.
2. We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word; every person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.
3. Christ you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be; one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.
4. Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of the Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word.

Peace and blessings,

Sister Nora

**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.

Did you know???

- ◆ Just because you don’t see faces on Sunday morning doesn’t mean they are not present or contribute.
 - ◇ Some tune in to our Facebook livestream
 - ◇ Some mail their tithes and offerings
 - ◇ One faithful person regularly sends us stamp books
- ◆ Anyone can attend and participate in the monthly Augustana Church Council Meeting. However, unless you are a council member, you are unable to vote. If it is necessary to break out in an Executive session, you would be asked to step out for a bit.
- ◆ FDR’s portrait was on the dime because of his association with the March of Dimes charity.



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
 Barbara Hillyer
 June, mother of
 Melanie Watson
 Roy Powell
 Fred Dunfee,
 John Metz’ friend
 Mark Howell
 Kathy Nowak

**Health Concerns
continued**

Randy Nowak’s
 mother-in-law

Those Who Mourn

Families of:
 Lee Ann Eberlein
 Kelsey Bourdon
 Marjorie Nofziger

Other concerns

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

And when you assume the posture of prayer,
 remember that it's not all asking. If you have
 anything against someone, forgive - only then
 will your heavenly Father be inclined to also
 wipe your slate clean of sins.

Mark 11:25 MSG

DAILY HELPS FOR YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY 2025



□ **March 5th – Ash Wednesday** – Read Matthew 6: 5-18

As Lent begins, ask for God’s guidance as you take on the practices of prayer, fasting, and good works. Have you decided what to give up or what to take on for Lent? Do not wait. The season of Lent is upon us providing us with so many opportunities to sow love and goodness in the world.

□ **March 6th – Thursday after Ash Wednesday** – Read Luke 9:22-25

Meditate on this daily Gospel reading. What do you notice? What are you drawn to. Ask God to guide you in your study.

□ **March 7th – Friday after Ash Wednesday** – Read Joel 2:12-13 and Matthew 9:15

Observe a traditional fast today (from Sunrise until Sundown) or abstain from a favorite food, TV program, or another enjoyable activity.

□ **March 8th – Saturday after Ash Wednesday** – Read Luke 5:32

Consider using the individual service of confession in our ELW. Ask a family, member, friend, or church leader to engage in this process with you. Feel God’s forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Offer forgiveness, grace, and mercy to another person.

□ **March 9th – First Sunday of Lent** – Read Luke 4:1-2

Ask Jesus for an increase in strength and perseverance in resisting temptation, and in following God’s will for you. Do you have a bad habit you wish to overcome? Keep a notepad handy and strive every day during Lent to make progress to stop the habit. Each time you fail, mark it in your notepad and don’t beat up on yourself but ask God for perseverance.

□ **March 10th – Monday of the First Week of Lent** – Read Matthew 25:31-46

Make time to volunteer at church or one of our local charities or perform a small act of kindness for a stranger today to share God’s love.

□ **March 11th – Tuesday of the First Week of Lent** – Read Matthew 6:7-15

Offer a prayer of your choosing on behalf of someone who has caused you pain and strive to let go of persistent grudges.

□ **March 12th – Wednesday of the First Week of Lent** – Read Luke 11:29-30

Is there a particular social issue (addiction, homelessness, hunger, gambling, hoarding, etc.) that you have not had time to read about or learn more about as a sign that you are trying to follow Jesus more closely and deepen your compassion and understanding of some of the struggles faced by others.

□ **March 13th – Thursday of the First Week of Lent** – Read I Corinthians 6:19-20, Matthew 7:7-12

Ask the Lord for grace, assistance, and whatever else you might need to become closer to Him and more like Him. During this time of Lent, trade your guilty pleasures for healthier habits. Challenge yourself to keep it up throughout the season of Lent and beyond.

□ **March 14th – Friday of the First Week of Lent** – Read Matthew 5:24

If you need to ask someone for forgiveness or mend a broken relationship, this is the day. Afterwards, spend time meditating on Christ’s sorrow throughout his life when he saw God’s children not forgiving or asking for forgiveness.

□ **March 15th – Saturday of the First Week of Lent** – Read Matthew 5:43-44

Strive to imitate the love of Christ and pray for someone who has caused you pain or sorrow. Then go to your pantry (or grocery if your pantry is empty) and put a food item in a box for each person for whom you pray. Take these items to our church pantry.



□ **March 16th – Second Sunday in Lent** – Read Luke 9: 28-36

In the afternoon or evening re-read the four lessons from this morning and prayerfully listen to the voice of God in them and allow your heart to deepen in love for God.

□ **March 17th – Monday of the Second Week in Lent** – Read Luke 6:36-38

Serve an elderly family member, neighbor or friend today – prepare a meal, run an errand, or help with a task. Whatever you do, let it be done with the love of God shining through your actions.

□ **March 18th – Tuesday of the Second Week in Lent** – Read Matthew 23:1-12

Pray the following Doxology numerous times throughout the day and experience the peace it brings to your heart. “Blessed be God the Father, who has created us. Blessed be God the Son, who has redeemed us. Blessed be God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies us. Blessed be the Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.”

□ **March 19th – Wednesday of the Second Week in Lent** – Read Matthew 1:16-24a

Reflect on the trials Joseph endured being Jesus earthly Father. Take a moment to honor your Father, Grandfather, or the Father figure in your life. If that person is still with you, pick up the phone and share your love and thanks. If they have returned to God, lift your prayer to God entrusting them to the Lord’s eternal care.

□ **March 20th – Thursday of the Second Week in Lent** – Read Luke 16:19-31

Pray to have a deeper trust in the Lord, surrendering to His divine will and the beautiful plan He has for your life.

□ **March 21st – Friday of the Second Week in Lent** – Read Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Meditate on the Apostle’s Creed or the Nicene Creed and pray that God will inspire us through the Holy Spirit to remain close to Christ in all things. May the creeds be more than just words for us; may they carry our belief into every aspect of our day.

□ **March 22nd – Saturday of the Second Week in Lent** – Read Matthew 4:4

If you could pick up your phone and speak to God, what would you say? More importantly, imagine the loving words he would share with you – words of guidance, mercy, and love.

□ **March 23rd – Third Sunday of Lent** – Read Luke 13:1-9

Today, pray for forgiveness for yourself, the church, and the whole world.

□ **March 24th – Monday of the Third Week of Lent** – Read Luke 4:24-30

Pray for the grace to continue accepting Jesus into your own heart and pray for those who do not yet know Him to change their hearts.

□ **March 25th – Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent** – Read Luke 1:38, Philippians 2:8

Contemplate the virtue of humility and meditate on Mary’s obedience and Jesus’ humble obedience to God’s will. Pray that God will give you a humble and obedient heart to love God above all things.

□ **March 26th – Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent** – Read Matthew 5:17-19

Read through each of the Ten Commandments and focus on one you have had difficulty keeping. Write a letter to God sharing what steps you will take to amend your ways and change your heart.

□ **March 27th – Thursday of the Third Week of Lent** – Read Luke 11:14-23

Consider making an anonymous donation to the food pantry, to an individual who you know is struggling, or to a project or program of a local organization and pray that God will use your gift to bring hope in a dark place.

□ **March 28th – Friday of the Third Week of Lent** – Read Mark 12:28-34

Perform an act of kindness today. It can be as simple as not parking in the closest parking spot to allow someone to go ahead of you in a line at the grocery or fast food. Then say a prayer for those persons you knowingly or unknowingly helped.



- **March 29th – Saturday of the Third Week of Lent** – Read Matthew 28:19-20
Adopt the heart of a missionary today and spread the love of God with those around you by sharing a favorite scripture, offering a prayer, or offering a loving act to help them out.
- **March 30th – Fourth Sunday in Lent** – Read Luke 15:1-3,11-32
Do you have a family member, friend, colleague, or neighbor who has fallen away from the faith? Consider inviting them to join you for Sunday worship, book study, Holy Week, Easter, or even a meal at church or when a church group goes out.
- **March 31st – Monday of the Fourth Week in Lent** – Read John 4:43-54
If there is a child in your life, teach them a simple prayer or buy them a simple book of prayers to read and pray. If they are a bit older, ask them to pray with you about a person or situation. Let them use their words as well as your words.
- **April 1st – Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent** – Read Galatians 6:9, John 5:1-16
While you are out running errands today, make an effort to kindly smile at those who are in customer service positions such as a waiter, a store clerk checking you out, etc. Try to bring a little bit of joy to someone's day.
- **April 2nd – Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent** – Read John 5:17-30
Pray for those who oppose the message of the Gospel and those who seek to silence the voice of God.
- **April 3rd – Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent** – Read John 5:31-47
Take time today to prayerfully meditate on Jesus' ministry of teaching, healing, preaching, and presence. Which of these accounts of Jesus' ministry resonate with you? Carry that most meaningful one with you throughout the day.
- **April 4th – Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent** – Read John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Remember that all good comes from the Lord and give thanks to Him for the blessings you have experienced this week. Count your many blessings...name them one by one.
- **April 5th – Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent** – Read John 7:40-53
Reflect on times recently (or in the past) when you may have misjudged the people around you. Make a firm commitment to avoid judging others.
- **April 6th – Fifth Sunday of Lent** – Read John 8:1-11
Is there someone who has caused you pain, anxiety, fear, or anger whom you feel you can never forgive? Offer a prayer for that person as well as for yourself. Ask the Lord to heal your own wounds through forgiveness.
- **April 7th – Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent** – Read John 8:12-20
Pray the Lord's Prayer throughout the day emphasizing each petition and asking yourself what each petition means in your life.
- **April 8th – Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent** – Read John 8:21-30
Reflect on how God willingly sacrificed His only Son for your salvation. What is it that you are willing to sacrifice today? Go without a meal today and use the money that would have paid for it as an offering to the church or other organization or give up some of your time today and call someone who is lonely or grieving.
- **April 9th – Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent** – Read John 8:31-42
Ask God for the courage to live by truth. What does freedom mean to you? Is it freedom for or from something?
- **April 10th – Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent** – Read Psalm 51:12, John 8:51-59
Pray to adhere to God's Word more faithfully in your own life. Clean an area of your home each week remaining in Lent. Get rid of excess clutter, do an extra deep cleaning in one area, or reorganize a closet or dresser you have been meaning to do for some time.



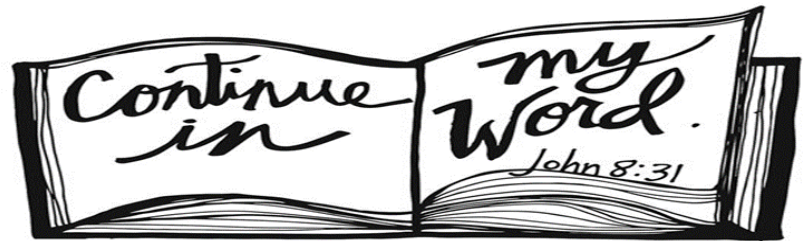
- **April 11th – Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent** – Read John 10:31-42
Pray and meditate thanking Christ for the suffering he willingly endured for our sake. Sit quietly and recall each step Jesus took along his way to the cross. Be sure not to be disturbed by your phone or other distractions.
- **April 12th – Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent** – Read Romans 15:13, John 11:47
Get up a little early or stay up a little late or carve a space in the middle of your day to ask yourself if you have ever faced prejudice. Also, ask the Holy Spirit for strength to remain faithful to God, even in the face of prejudice. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with joy and peace.
- **April 13th – Palm/Passion Sunday** – Read Philippians 2:6-8, Luke 22:14-23:56
Pray for all Bishops, Pastors, Deacons, Teachers, musicians, and lay persons engaged in the preparations of services for this most holy week
- **April 14th – Monday in Holy Week** – Read John 12:1-11
Imagine life without the hope and promise of salvation. Pray that all persons may experience the joy and love of Jesus given to us in our faith.
- **April 15th – Tuesday in Holy Week** – Read John 13:21-33, 36-38
Today, provide a kind word of encouragement to a friend, family member, neighbor, or someone who may be a stranger who is having a crisis in faith and needs encouragement.
- **April 16th – Wednesday in Holy Week** – Read Matthew 26:14-25
Pray for a true change of heart so that you might turn permanently away from all that separates you from the love of God. Is there a task you have been avoiding? Embrace it today as an act of love, offering your effort as a prayerful gift to God.
- **April 17th – Holy / Maundy Thursday** – Read John 13:1-15
Make an effort to attend the service tonight recalling the last night Jesus sat at the table with his disciples. Experience the stripping of the chancel moving us toward Good Friday. Reflect on how you will follow Christ's example of humble obedience.
- **April 18th – Good Friday** – Read John 18:1-19:42
Attend the Stations of the Cross service during the day or the Tenebrae service in the evening. Allow yourself to experience the depth of the Passion of Christ.
- **April 19th – Holy Saturday – The Vigil of Easter** – Read Luke 24:1-12
Abstain from hurried activities today and make an effort to focus all your thoughts throughout the day on the death of Jesus for your salvation.
- **April 20th – Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord** – Read John 20:1-9, Luke 24:5-6
Christ is Risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! May this special day fill your heart with renewed hope and peace. Share the news of the Risen Christ with every person you meet.





Lenten Calendars & Study Booklets

are available to pick up from the table in the narthex.



March 2 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
St. Luke 9:28-43a

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9 - Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
St. Luke 4:1-13

March 16 - Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1

March 23 - Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
I Corinthians 10:1-13
St. Luke 13:1-9

March 30 - Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
St. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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.

MARCH 2025 SERVER SCHEDULE

March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer

Lector: Heidi Scupham

Server: Jill Scupham

Technology Server: Cayden Abner

Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Assisting Minister: Scott Watson

Lector: Jerry Duck

March 9 – Lent 1

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber

Lector: Maralee Macumber

Server: Jack Watson

Technology Server: Cayden Abner

Ushers: Scott & Melanie Watson

March 16 – Lent 2

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer

Lector: Mark Moyer

Server: George Scupham

Technology Server: Mark Moyer

Ushers: The Moyer Family

March 23 – Lent 3

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer

Lector: Melanie Watson

Server: Cayden Abner

Technology Server: Mark Moyer

Ushers: Dave & Janet Ermis

March 30 – Lent 4

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber

Lector: Maralee Macumber

Server: Leah Moyer

Technology Server: Cayden Abner

Ushers: Jerry & Judy Duck

March Altar Guild

Deb Rowland & Heidi Paston

Please let the office know of any changes.

March Altar Flowers

March 2 – Given by Jerry & Judy Duck
In Celebration of Judy's Birthday

March 9 – Mike & Linda Iavagnilio
In memory of Matthew

March 16 – Given To the Glory of God

March 23 – Given To the Glory of God

March 30 – Given To the Glory of God



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.

Don't Forget!

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.



Thank you!

Thanks to everyone for coming out to help! Work Day was a success! Be watching for a future date to finish work in the balcony area.

Financial/ Attendance Report

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

**Information thru February 24, 2025

Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$23,875.00	\$14,621.98
February Monthly Budget Requirement	February Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,940.00	\$9,356.00
MARCH Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$11,940.00	\$0.00
February Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	February Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
30	5
Building Fund Roof Repair Goal	Building Fund Roof Repair Year-to-Date Giving
\$55,147.00	\$7,655.00

Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of January 14, 2025

Present: Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Dave Ermis, Gina Iannarelli, Chuck Miller, Mark Moyer, Nancy Tinder, Randy Tinder, Sister Nora

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

***Financial reports** from December were presented. The question was raised if we will be stable if we hire a part-time pastor. We are putting it in God's hands. Reports were unanimously approved.

***Sister Nora's reports** were presented. The question was raised if Sister Nora's involvement will cease at both churches when a new pastor is called. Yes.

***Unfinished Business:**

Organist Update - Coverage is until May.

Sister Nora's Review was excellent.

Shared Ministry Process - A financial packet needs to be put together to present to a candidate. Both Councils have to vote on the candidate for the call. The candidate will preach at both congregations then the congregations will vote on the candidate.

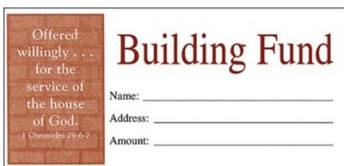
Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry needs to be invited to Augustana and Grace.

Stewardship Committee is needed to be established.

***New Business:**

No new business was discussed.

(See full minutes on the Bulletin Board)



Building Fund

Name: _____
Address: _____
Amount: _____

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.



Facebook Livestream

It has been difficult to capture a realistic Facebook Livestream attendance count. We are asking that if you are watching the Sunday worship service live, later in the day, or later in the week, that you would click on the "Like" thumbs-up icon or make a comment. That way, your attendance will be captured, and we will have a more accurate count to report.

Thank you for your help!

March Fellowship Opportunities



Sunday, March 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.

March Game Night

For Augustana & Grace

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

Grace Fellowship Hall

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

Questions? Contact Grace Church at

574-294-1951

FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

Wednesday, March 5 ~ 9 AM

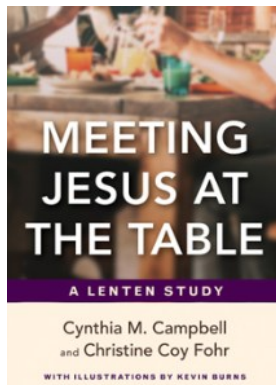
Meet at Perkins on Cassopolis Street.
Call Deb Rowland for reservations.

LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH Thursday, March 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, March 25.*

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

Shrove Tuesday, March 4 – 5-6:30 PM – Pancake & Sausage Supper at Grace. Free Will offering.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

- ◇ 7-10 AM - **Ashes to Go** at Grace Parking Lot
- ◇ **Noon - 1/2-hour Service** with Ashes and Holy Communion at Grace
- ◇ **4 PM - Ash Wednesday Service** with Ashes and Holy Communion and Music at Grace
- ◇ **5-6 PM - Ashes to Go** at Augustana Parking Lot
- ◇ **6:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Service** with Imposition of Ashes, Confession, Holy Communion, Music and hymns at Augustana



Looking Ahead

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – 6:30 PM

Foot Washing, Communion, Sermon, Music at Augustana

Good Friday, April 18 – 12:00 Noon

Stations of the Cross at Grace. We will follow the art work of a local artist which depicts the steps Jesus took on his way to the cross.

Good Friday, April 18 – 7:30 PM

Tenebrae Service at Grace. The church starts in light until by the end the church is dark. A large life-sized cross is carried in and there is both scripture readings, hymns, choir, and soloists.

Easter Vigil, April 19 – 6:30 PM

This service at Augustana begins outside with a fire and the service moves inside in darkness with those attending carrying candles. The service includes readings from the story of Creation to Jesus' Resurrection with many congregational hymns and songs, a sermon, Holy Communion, and Baptisms at the end of the service with everything in bright light.

Easter Sunday, April 20 – The Day of Resurrection. These will be festival services with lots of music, bell and vocal choirs, congregational singing, and so much more!!

7 AM and 9 AM – Grace

11 AM – Augustana

MORE APRIL HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, April 2 -

Breakfast Club at Perkins

Sunday, April 6 - After worship -

1st Sunday Meal a Month

Tuesday, April 8 -

Augustana Church Council Meeting

Thursday, April 10 -

God's Gifts Pantry

Friday-Saturday, April 11-12 -

Women's Retreat

Wednesday, April 16 -

Holden Evening Prayer

Tuesday, April 22 -

Newsletter Articles Deadline

Thursday, April 24 - God's Gifts Pantry

Lunch Bunch at The Golden Egg

Sunday, April 27 -

Meeting with Rev. Priscilla Geerdes

All Wednesdays in April - 4 PM -

Service of Holy Communion at Grace

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING
Sunday, March 30th – FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The Church Council has voted to call a Special Congregation Meeting following worship on Sunday, March 30, 2025, for the following purpose:

1. Election of the Council’s nominated candidate for Pastor. An affirmative vote of 2/3 of the ballots cast by the voting members in attendance is necessary for the election of a pastor.
2. Adopt the compensation and benefits package by a simple majority vote.

No proxy or absentee ballots are permitted. A sign-in sheet is completed by the members eligible to vote, and a quorum is needed for each of these ballots. Our constitution indicates that 10% of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. The election of the pastor shall be by written ballot.

You will be receiving biographical material on the candidate as well as an explanation of the compensation and benefits package. No other business shall be transacted at this Special Congregation Meeting.



Time to order Easter flowers!

Easter is fast approaching and it’s time to place your order for Easter flowers!

Again this year the choice for flowers are Easter Lilies, Tulips, or Hyacinths, all are 6” potted with a lovely gold pot cover.

Each beautiful plant costs only \$10.

Make your order with this order sheet and drop it off at the church office or place in the offering. Order forms will also be available in the narthex.

NOTE: Orders must be submitted by **Sunday, March 30.**

Each plant is \$10.00.
Deadline is Sunday, March 30, 2025
 NO EXCEPTIONS

	Quantity			
Easter Lilies	_____	X	\$10 =	_____
Tulips	_____	X	\$10 =	_____
Hyacinths	_____	X	\$10 =	_____

Total Enclosed: _____

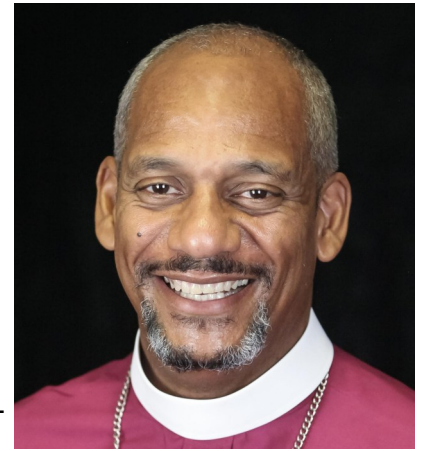
Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____



Bishop Timothy Mark Graham
will Preach & Preside at Augustana on
Sunday, March 23
and will attend our
Joint Council and Call Committees Meeting
and Lunch following worship.
Plan now to attend!



Bishop Timothy Mark Graham was elected and called to serve the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, at the 2024 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly, in Louisville, KY. His official start began on September 1, 2024.

Bishop Tim is an Iowa Hawkeye by birth. At three-weeks-old, he was adopted by the late Rev. Vernon and Mrs. Ellen Graham (while Vernon was a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA). However, most of his young and adult life have been spent in Fort Wayne, IN.

Prior to the assembly election, Bishop Tim served Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN, in various capacities, for seventeen years. His initial call to Messiah in 2007 was actually a dual parish call shared with Grace Lutheran Church/Light of the Cross, also in Fort Wayne, as the redevelopment pastor. Grace/Light of the Cross celebrated Holy Closure at the end of 2009, and Bishop Tim was called to serve Messiah as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry in 2010 and then as the Senior Pastor in 2015.

Bishop Tim obtained his undergrad degree from Purdue University in Fort Wayne (when it was still IPFWJ) in Organizational Leadership and his Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Bishop Tim was ordained at Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN, which was his home congregation prior to his first call. Bishop Tim also worked for 14 yrs. as a forklift driver at Supervalu prior to attending seminary.

Bishop Tim, and wife, Meme (Michelle), are the parents of four adult children in Fort Wayne: Sashelle Rose (fiancé Alex Knight), Timothy Graham, Jr., Larraine Graham (husband Cody Williamson), and Robert Graham. They also have seven grandchildren including Jaylen, twins Maleyah and Michelle, Noelle, Elias, Graham, and Greyson.

2025 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly ~ June 5-7, Thursday-Saturday
Crowne Plaza in Indianapolis ~ Union Station, 123 W Louisiana St



Both Augustana and Grace need to have one male and one female voting member present. The early bird registration fee is \$250 which includes all materials, Thursday's Banquet, Friday's lunch, and all refreshment breaks. After Friday, April 4, 2025, the fee increases to \$300.

Register on-line at <https://thithe.ly/event-registration/#/8303440> or by going to www.iksynod.org

Hotel registration must be made separately at the Crowne Plaza by phoning 317-631-2221. The group rate is \$169. Use link <https://shorturl.at/ajuLW>

Before registering and reserving a room, please talk with Sister Nora about your desire to attend and pick up the printed materials in the office.

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.

135 People

Served in February

God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help

Thursday, March 13 and **Thursday, March 27** 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

March 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Join us each Sunday morning for Fellowship in the Narthex before & after worship.</p>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>11 AM-Worship Presentation of Our Lord</p> <p>12:15 PM - 1st Sunday Meal-a-Month</p>		<p><i>Strove Tuesday</i></p> <p>1:30-3 PM-Book Study at Grace</p> <p>5-6:30 PM- Pancake & Sausage Supper at Grace</p>	<p><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>9 AM-Breakfast Club at Perkins</p> <p>7-10 AM-Ashes to Go-Grace</p> <p>Noon-Service at Grace with Ashes & Holy Communion</p> <p>4 PM-Service at Grace with Ashes & Holy Communion</p> <p>5-6 PM-Ashes to Go-Augustana</p> <p>6:30 PM-Service at Augustana with Ashes & Holy Communion</p>	<p>6:30-8 PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>11 AM-Worship</p>		<p>1:30-3 PM-Book Study at Grace</p> <p>6:30 PM- Augustana Council Meeting</p>	<p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p>	<p>10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry</p> <p>6:30-8 PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>11 AM-Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM-Music & Worship Commit- tee Meeting at Grace</p>		<p>8:45 AM - Noon Ministerium Meeting</p> <p>1:30-3 PM-Book Study at Grace</p>	<p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p> <p>6:30 PM-Holden Evening Prayer</p>	<p>Newsletter Articles Deadline</p> <p>6:30-8 PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>	<p>5:30-8 PM-Game Night at Grace</p>	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>11 AM-Worship Bishop Graham Preaching</p> <p>12:30 PM-Joint Council and Call Committees Meet- ing with lunch at Augustana</p>		<p>1:30-3 PM-Book Study at Grace</p>	<p>4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace</p>	<p>10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry</p> <p>Noon-Lunch Bunch at The Golden Egg</p> <p>6:30-8 PM-Book Study at Augustana</p>		
30	31	<p>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ~ Psalm 51:10 ESV</p>				
<p>11 AM-Worship Special Congrega- tion Meeting follows</p>						