



Augustana News

April 2026

When it comes to Holy Week, it's difficult to avoid politics in church.

Politics are all over the story of Jesus' final days. On Palm Sunday he rides into town in a parade meant to mirror (and be an alternative to!) the showy military parades of the Roman Empire. He then marches into the Temple—a center of both religious and civic life for his people—and over turns the tables of religious officials exchanging everyday currency for coins to be used only in the Temple (a wily way to cheat people). He spends the whole week publicly debating and teaching on topics relevant to government and religion. Then he is arrested and tried by leaders who serve both religious and civic roles—priest, king, governor—and is finally charged with treason against the Roman Empire (being called “King” of the Jews). This political crime is the crime for which Jesus is sentenced to crucifixion.

Politics of religion and society propel much of the action in the final week of Jesus' life.

So when someone talks about wanting to avoid politics in church, it could be a sign that they haven't read their bible very closely. Jesus lived and taught in a way that drew attention from both religious and civic authorities of his day. Much of what Jesus did was deemed political by his contemporaries.

Yet, Jesus didn't live as he did to be political. Jesus simply lived in a way that brought the Kingdom of Heaven to all those he met, a way that fulfilled the will of God. In the passion narrative of Holy Week, we zoom in on what it means to do God's will: Jesus eats with and blesses those who betray and deny him, he goes to God in prayer when things are grim, he experiences suffering without raising a hand to harm, he forgives those who kill him, he sacrifices for the wellbeing of others—friends and enemies alike.

Sometimes we're quick to say we don't want politics in church. Other times, we feel like if the church doesn't speak up on political matters, it's failing. But the measure of whether we are doing what we are supposed to do as church is not whether we are political or not. The measure of whether we are doing what we are supposed to do is if our life together reflects the life of Jesus. Are we striving to live in a way that blesses those who betray us, that turns to prayer in hard times, that seeks forgiveness rather than revenge, and that sacrifices for others' wellbeing? The story of Holy Week brings into sharp focus what this way of life looks like in the way Jesus lives his final days, hours, and moments. Jesus shows us that it is a way of life that embraces love over all.

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(Politics —Continued from Page 1)

When we live this way as church together, sometimes these actions will look political to the world in our day just as it did to the world in Jesus' day. Sometimes these actions will upset or confuse others. Often they won't be noticed at all.

That is the way of the cross. Foolishness to the world. And salvation for us. Because the way of the cross is also the way of resurrection. We will never be able to live following God's way just as Jesus did, and we never have to. Yet we are able to venture down that road because Jesus first did it for us. For each of us, and for all of us. In practicing grace, forgiveness, and loving sacrifice, we show thankfulness for the gift of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and we get to experience the promise of resurrection both in our lives today and in the life to come.

Come join us in the whole story of Holy Week to be reminded of this way again. Walk with Jesus through betrayal and forgiveness, pain and promise, through the cross to resurrection, as he once walked that road for you.

Easter blessings to you and yours!

In resurrection hope,
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 ~ 9 AM–3 PM

Tuesday & Wednesday
1 PM–4 PM

PRAYER LIST

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



Health Concerns

Ken Davis

Sister Nora Frost

Barbara Hillyer

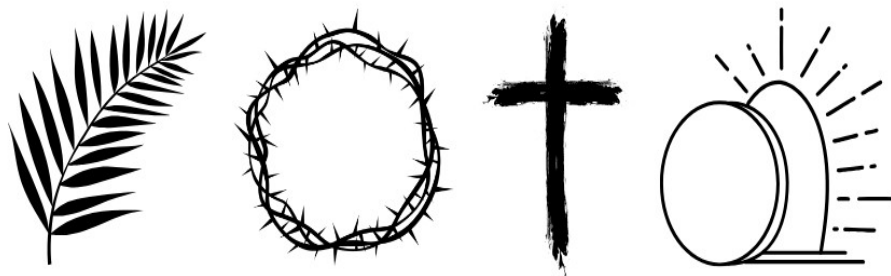
Joel, Barbara's son-in-law—cancer

Deb Ludlow

Courtney Evans, brother-in-law of Jessica Kauffman—cancer

Other concerns

Military Service Members



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

With Augustana and Grace Lutheran Churches

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 9 AM AT GRACE

THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A PROCESSION OF PALMS

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 6:30 PM AT AUGUSTANA

WE REMEMBER THE LAST SUPPER

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 AT GRACE

12:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:30 PM TENEBRAE (SERVICE OF LIGHT AND DARK)

WITH IMAGES, SCRIPTURE, SONG WE REMEMBER THE DAY THAT JESUS DIED

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 4 8:30 PM AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL

WE TELL THE STORY OF SALVATION AS WE WAIT FOR EASTER MORNING

EASTER SUNDAY! APRIL 5

9 AM AT GRACE, 11 AM AT AUGUSTANA

WITH MUSIC, FLOWERS, AND JOY WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION!

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUSTANAELKHART.ORG
1133 KILBOURN ST.
ELKHART, IN

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRACELUTHERANELKHART.ORG
831 W MARION ST.
ELKHART, IN

March Fellowship Opportunities

FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB Wednesday, April 1 ~ 9 AM

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

LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH Thursday, April 30 ~ Noon

Come and join your Augusta-
na friends for lunch at:

Baker's Nook Café
127 Easy Shopping Place,
Elkhart

Bring a friend or neighbor
with you. *Phone your reserva-
tion and the number coming
to the church office by
Monday, April 27.*

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

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

April HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, April 1 - 9 AM Breakfast Club at Perkins

Thursday, April 2 - 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Augustana and livestreamed

Friday, April 3 - 12 PM Stations of the Cross at Grace

6:30 PM Tenebrae Service at Grace and livestreamed

Saturday, April 4 - 8:30 PM Easter Vigil at St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, April 5 - 9 AM Easter Sunday at Grace and livestreamed

11 AM Easter Sunday at Augustana and livestreamed

Thursday, April 9 - 10-11 AM God's Gifts Pantry, **4 PM** Holy Communion at Grace

Monday, April 13 - OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, April 14 - 6:30 PM Joint Council Meeting

Thursday, April 16 - 4 PM Holy Communion at Grace

Thursday, April 23- 10-11 AM God's Gifts Pantry, **4 PM** Holy Communion at Grace

Thursday, April 30 - Noon Lunch Bunch at Baker's Nook Café

4 PM Holy Communion at Grace

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt before church for the Sunday School Kids and for any Young at Heart Kids.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10:45 AM outside at Augustana. We will meet inside at the back of the church (if it is raining, we will be inside).

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Moyer at 574.849.8271



Say hello, welcome, and welcome back to some new friendly faces at Augustana and Grace this Spring!

Both of our congregations will celebrate baptisms, receive new members, and/or welcome former members back in the months of April and May. What a joyful sign of new life for the Easter season! Look around each Sunday and see if there's someone you haven't met yet. Introduce yourself, ask them to join you in a ministry you participate in, and get to know something about their life outside of church. These relationships make a real difference in people's lives! God calls us to be present for one another, and it's how God is present for us too. We will share the dates for these special occasions as they are scheduled— be on the lookout! We don't want anyone to miss the fun.

Next Joint Council Meeting approaching on April 14!

Twice a year, the church councils of Augustana and Grace meet together in the spirit of our shared ministry to plan and update our covenant. This time we will meet at Augustana on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 PM. All council members from both churches are expected to be in attendance. If you are not a council member but have questions about or ideas for our life together, reach out to a council member in advance to make sure your insights are shared. We are grateful for the ways we are church together!

Join church friends for the Stations of the Resurrection walk at Pathways Retreat in Goshen, Thursday, April 16 at 11 AM or Saturday, April 18 at 11 AM! Enjoy time in nature in a peaceful setting as we reflect on stories of resurrection. Walk the trails at Pathways Retreat and enjoy this self-guided experience, pausing for scripture, prayer, and reflection as you go. Sign up at church beginning on Easter. Rain date: April 23 at 11 AM.

<p style="text-align: center;">Stations of the Cross Walk March 29-April 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stations of the Resurrection Walk April 5-30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stations of the Trees Walk May 1-June 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hidden Creature Trail June 1-30</p>	
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April 19 we welcome a special guest, Chaplain Cory Martin from the Elkhart County Jail Ministry!

Jesus spent much of his time on earth with outcasts, extending grace, love and mercy to people for whom society had lost all hope. The mission for the Elkhart County Jail Ministry is to spend time with the people Jesus spent time with, “Sharing the freedom found in Christ.” With the help of volunteers, churches, and Assistant Chaplains, the Gospel is shared in the context of relationship. While the Elkhart County Jail Ministry offers programs and bible studies to people who are incarcerated, these programs actually offer the volunteers and chaplains an environment in which to build relationships. Our friends who are incarcerated need to experience the love of Christ and not just hear about it. With that in mind the Elkhart County Jail Ministry provides many services, including tattoo removal, a work release program, housing assistance, and more. Come learn more about this amazing ministry in our community on April 19, and join Pastor Emily at our Augustana and Grace table at their annual gala (no cost to attend! limited spots!) on May 5. Contact Pastor Emily to RSVP by April 28 or to learn more.

WHAT: 2026 Elkhart County Jail Ministry Dessert Banquet

WHEN: Tuesday, May 5th, from 7:00-8:30pm (doors open at 6:00pm)

WHERE: Nappanee Missionary Church, 70417 SR 19 N, Nappanee, IN 46550

APRIL 2026 SERVER SCHEDULE

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

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

April 5 – Easter Day

Assisting Minister: Mark Moyer
Lector: Mark Moyer
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Randy Tinder
Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

April 12 – Easter 2

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

April 19– Easter 3

Assisting Minister: Ed Williams
Lector: Diane Erickson
Server: Leah Moyer
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Deb Rowland & Emily Moyer

April 26 – Easter 4

Assisting Minister: Maralee Macumber
Lector: Maralee Macumber
Server: George Scupham
Technology Server: Cayden Abner
Ushers: Ed & Janie Williams

April Altar Guild

Nancy Tinder , helpers Deb & Heidi

Please let the office know of any changes.



The Word in Season devotional booklets for April, May, & June are available.

Pick up your *free* copy today!

April Altar Flowers



April 5– Available

April 12 – Available

April 19– Nancy & Randy Tinder
in celebration of wedding Anniversary

April 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 March 24, 2026	
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement	Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund
\$32,895.25	\$23,025.70
March Monthly Budget Requirement	March Actual Offering to General Fund
\$11,730	\$7,250.00
APRIL Monthly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement	Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date
\$11,730	\$ -
March Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	March Average Sunday Facebook Attendance
29	2

**Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights
Of March 10, 2026**

Present: Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Mark Moyer, Maralee Macumber,
Doris Koontz, Brian Fann, Noah Reshan, Pastor Emily

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

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

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

Professional Leadership Conference

Time she has been able to spend with Synod support staff

Update on our Circle of Care family

Her introduction to the Elkhart Jain Ministry

***Old Business:**

Much discussion on the Mosaic fundraiser.

Pastor Emily received the discretionary fund that was discussed earlier.

***New Business:**

April 14th is the Joint Council Meeting with Grace (Augustana will host).

Discussed Augustana operating for a year without any major changes.

Much Discussion about **Giving**.

- not passing plates formally during service.
- A QR code in the bulletin was suggested.
- Was agreed that Augustana should get its own Tithely account.

Chris Beyer has volunteered to direct the joint choir for the next few months.

Mark brought some old files on the bell tower, to be archived in office.

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





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, April 9 and **Thursday, April 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)
Cake mixes and frosting
Pudding - Jello
Cookies (individually wrapped)
Juice
Shelf stable 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:

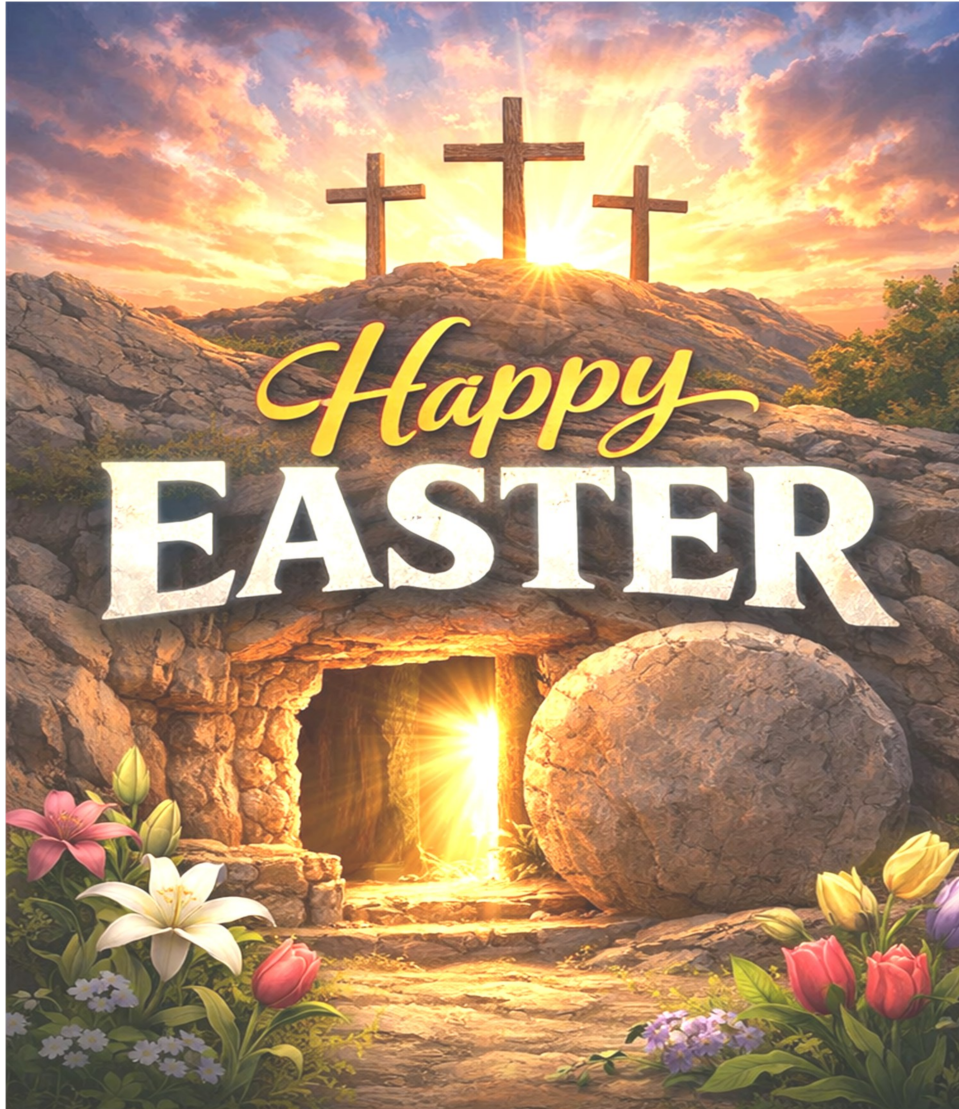
*Mac & Cheese with foil pack
*Boxed cereals (any size or kind)
*Spaghetti-O's – pull top
*Pork n' Beans & Dogs – pull top
*Canned kid meals
*Bags or boxes of rice
*Dinty Moore Stew
*Bags of beans
*Tuna

Cans with pop-tops are preferred
though we know many cans do not come that way.

NO EXPIRED FOOD

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9 AM- Breakfast Club @ Perkins	2 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service @ Augustana and livestreamed	3 Noon Stations of the Cross @ Grace 6:30 PM Tenebrae Service @ Grace and livestreamed	4 8:30 PM Easter Vigil with local Episcopal Churches @ St. John's Episcopal Church
5 9 AM-Worship @ Grace and livestreamed 11 AM-Worship @ Augustana and livestreamed Happy Easter!!!	6	7	8	9 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	10	11
12 11 AM-Worship	13 Office Closed	14 6:30 PM- Joint Council Meeting	15	16 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	17	18 12-4 PM- Fellowship Hall in Use
19 11 AM-Worship	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 4:15 PM Confirmation Class @ Grace	23 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	24	25
26 11 AM- Worship	17	28	29 4:15 PM Confirmation Class @ Grace	30 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace Noon- Lunch Brunch @ Baker's Nook Café		



Augustana Lutheran Church

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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.