

# Augustana Lutheran Church

## Augustana Newsletter

308 East Douglas Ave.  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218)736-5308

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Augustana Church will begin hosting Sunday worship on September 12th at 10:00 am. Pastor Jon Olson will lead us in worship and will be installing Amy Kelly. Pastor Steve Wold, Amy's supervisor, will also participate in the service. Pastor Jon served his internship at Augustana from 1987-1988. Pastor Steve Wold was an interim pastor at Augustana in 2013. There will be pizza for lunch for everyone. Come reconnect with Pastor Jon and Pastor Steve and welcome Sean, Amy, Olivia and Audrey to our Augustana family!

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

*"We are called and blessed by God's grace, His Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit into fellowship through Word and Sacrament to worship, minister, evangelize and teach the world around us."*

The Sunday bulletin can be downloaded by visiting [augustanalutheran.org](http://augustanalutheran.org) and clicking on the link.

**COVID UPDATE** - After prayerful consideration of the following letter from the Bishop of the NWMN Synod of the ELCA, the Augustana Congregational Council has decided to ask the congregation to resume wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth indoors at Augustana starting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This decision will be reviewed monthly and changes in the policy will be communicated to the congregation.

As we regather on Sunday mornings at Augustana you will notice many of the same precautions that were in place last spring remaining. Whenever you enter the building please use the hand sanitizer stations by each entrance. Ushers will seat every other pew in the sanctuary and encourage non-related groups to space themselves within the pews. We will continue to have offering stations, communion will be single-serve cups in the pews, and we have no-contact sharing of the peace. We will ask those in attendance to sign in for two reasons; first in case the office is in need of doing contact tracing and secondly because we are not passing the welcome tablets in the pews in the sanctuary.

The council would like to thank you for your cooperation in masking and following our covid protocols. These are small things that we can do to love our neighbors and try to keep everyone around us healthy!



Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

August 26, 2021

Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come! As I write this from my home in Detroit Lakes, it is raining here and across much of our region. I am giving thanks for this respite from the drought, even as I continue to pray for farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods have been so severely impacted. Thank you for your prayers and for your good work serving your neighbors in your local communities of our Northwestern Minnesota Synod!

Speaking of "respite," we enjoyed a brief one from the pandemic this summer when we were able to remove our masks and return to gathering without restrictions. However, I have recently begun wearing a mask again when I am among you indoors due to the increasing spread of the Delta variant of the virus. Believe me, I am as disheartened to be writing this message as you are to be receiving it!

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend the wearing of masks indoors by both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Masks have been proven to greatly limit the spread of this virus. The new variant is twice as contagious, and studies suggest that even vaccinated people who are asymptomatic for disease may still spread the virus to unvaccinated people who could then become ill with COVID-19. Accordingly, I am recommending that worshippers in our congregations return to wearing masks indoors in order to protect our neighbors from this disease.

As always, we are guided by faith, facts and love. We have faith that God has called people into vocations of public health, medicine and pharmaceutical research, and through them God is protecting us. I have heard some say that they don't need to be vaccinated or wear masks because they trust God. To quote Martin Luther, "This is not faith in God; this is testing him." (See Luke 4:9-13 or [this pastoral guidance from Martin Luther!](#)) Yes, sometimes God intervenes with miracles, but miracles are rare. In between the miracles, God is still at work. Christians trust that God is protecting us through our God-given skills and vocations, and through gifts like vaccines that are derived from God's good creation.

I believe that soon we'll be free of this pandemic. Experts tell us that will happen when the vaccination rate gets above 70%. It currently stands at around 50% or lower for most of our counties. The good news is that with the spread of the Delta variant, vaccination rates are also rising. If you are hesitating for religious reasons, then please hear me clearly: as your Synod's called Pastor, I am telling you that there are no religious reasons to refuse the vaccine and lots of religious reasons to receive it.

Besides being guided by our faith, we are also guided by facts. In this matter, the relevant fact is the rapidly rising case numbers in all of our Synod.

Finally, we are guided by love. You and I may not fear getting the virus, but we all should be concerned about the possibility that we could unintentionally spread the virus to vulnerable neighbors who could become sick or even die. This is how we follow Jesus. We use our God-given freedom, not for ourselves, but for our neighbor – like Jesus did for us when He freely chose death on a cross for you and me.

Thank you for your faithfulness in the Gospel! I look forward to seeing you in my travels or over Zoom sometime soon. Mask or no mask, the Holy Spirit is still gathering us to be her faithful church!

In Christ our Brother,

Pastor Bill Tesch  
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

Greetings!

Excitement is a wonderful description of how I feel about the opportunity to serve at Augustana for my internship. After learning a little about Augustana from your church leadership, the vibrancy and dedication of this congregation – faithful people of God – makes me know this is a place for all to learn and grow and serve God together. For this I am extremely grateful.

As way of introduction I'd like to tell you a little about myself. My husband, Sean, and I have been married for 25 years. We have two daughters, Olivia who is 15, and Audrey who is 11. We live in Moorhead with our golden retriever, Comet. I am originally from northern Minnesota near Oklee. Our family worshiped at a little country church, Ebenezer Lutheran, which was a half mile from our farm. I attended Concordia College in Moorhead where I got to play in the pep band, sing in the freshman choir and major in Communications. After college I worked in television news for five years and then returned to Concordia to run their media relations department. I've been at Concordia for the past 20 years doing various communications jobs all of which have included telling people's stories. (We all have them and I'm looking forward to hearing yours!) I finally answered the call to become a pastor a couple years ago and have been a distance learner through Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, while working at Concordia.

In June my time at Concordia will be complete. I will spend the summer in a required chaplaincy program called Clinical Pastoral Education at Sanford Health in Fargo and in September I will begin at Augustana. Right now, September may feel both close and far away. I think the time will fairly fly as you say farewell and thank you to Pastor David and recharge over the summer. This challenging and heartbreaking year is showing glimmers of hope on the horizon as we begin to ease into new patterns. Bringing community back together for modified worship will feel good while being grateful for the skill and agility of those who helped us worship online or on the radio.

By late summer/early fall, things will look different than now. With high spirits and God's grace we will move forward as an Augustana congregation. As I think about our future working and walking together with Christ I am drawn to the words of Isaiah 55:12

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Looking forward to our time together with joy, spirited singing and so much rejoicing we can't help but clap our hands.

The peace and hope of Christ be with you all –  
Amy





October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9-9:40 there will be acolyte training in the sanctuary for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The acolytes will also be acknowledged in the worship service that morning. The training will be lead by Karen Schneck and Intern Amy. If you have any questions please contact the church office.



### **Sunday School starts on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15**

All children ages 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come to Sunday School at Augustana. The typical format for Sunday School will be an opening bible verse/story/lesson time lead by Intern Amy with music time with Intern Amy and Meghan to follow. Then there will be a group craft and Sunday School will close with the Lord's Prayer and kids will be dismissed to get a donut prior to worship. Parents are welcome to attend with their child(ren). If you are willing to help with craft time please let Angie know.

Later this fall we plan to offer a Sunday morning gathering time for middle and high school youth, with the possibility of transitioning the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to this group part way through the year in the youth room. If that age group would like to utilize the youth room on Sunday mornings to play games and spend time together, that space is available for them! If you are interested in being part of a team to lead this time, please let Angie know.

### *Choir and Special Music*



Due to the ongoing covid pandemic and the uptick in cases in our area we will not be able to start choir this year. Instead, we invite those that are interested doing special music to talk to Angie, Intern Amy, or Meghan and they would like to help you organize and plan those opportunities. This could include instrumental, solo/duet special music and small ensembles. We would encourage all ages and talent levels to consider sharing your musical gifts with the congregation.

### **QUILT AND CRAFT SALE NOVEMBER 5TH AND 6TH**

A Quilt and Craft Sale is being planned by the Piecemaker Quilters for Friday, November 5th and Saturday, November 6th at Augustana Church. Donations of handmade items would be appreciated. As of now, we are not anticipating implementing Covid restrictions on attendees. Your help is needed to make this a big success!



### Synod Women Zoom Meeting

Our Synod women are taking turns offering our "Gather" bible study on the 4th Monday of the month through September at 7:00 pm. They will last one hour. The I.D. number for the Zoom meeting is 4870829242. Please join us!



### Piecemakers Quilting

Thursdays at 9:00 am  
Fellowship Hall



### Tuesday, September 14th

Ruth Circle 9:15am in fellowship hall  
Deborah Circle 12:00 pm in fellowship hall



If you would like to purchase altar flowers for our Sunday services, please let Angie know. The cost is \$40. If you would like them in honor or in memory of someone or if there are certain colors you would like, let Angie know.



Augustana Church now has an online giving option through Tithely per ELCA recommendations. You can access the

online giving a few different ways. Here's how!

- Visit Augustana's Facebook page and click on the link
- Visit [augustanalutheran.org](http://augustanalutheran.org) and click on the Give button.
- Download the Tithely app to your smartphone and find Augustana Lutheran Church.
- Simply Giving
- Mail your offering to the church. 308 E. Douglas Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
- Scan the QR Code to the right.



If you are interested in using Simply Giving, contact Angie and she will get you an authorization form to fill out and she will get you set up.

**Actual General Offering  
as of 8/31/21—\$74,483.12  
(Budgeted \$130,972.00)**



### Finances

***\*It is important to remember that expenses at Augustana vary from month to month just like the monetary offering does throughout the year. Some members choose to make annual or quarterly gifts to the church and some of our expenses are paid on an annual or semi-annual basis. In our budgeting process some expenses are also planned to take place at a certain point during the year. One example of this would be Vacation Bible School expenses are incurred in the summer months. If you would like to review a more detailed financial report, full monthly reports are available for review in the office.***

# SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

# SEPTEMBER

Anniversaries

9/04 Dorothy Malm  
9/09 Emma Will  
9/12 Lynette Stenstrom  
9/13 Brett Carlson  
9/15 Brianna Will  
9/17 Gary Anderson  
9/20 Isaac Steen  
9/25 Gary Anderson  
9/29 David Schneck, Jr.  
9/30 Lynn Gabrielson  
Kari Johnson

9/01 Gary and Elaine Thiel  
9/09 Darren and Kari Johnson  
9/14 Shawn McCarty and Jill Balgaard  
9/23 Clair and DeLores McBeth  
9/28 Todd and Dacia Johnson  
9/29 Dean and Patti Rix



Dear Friends at Augustana,

We thank each and everyone for prayers during these 6 weeks. We are at home now. All the visits by phone or in person were greatly appreciated too. We love the plant, so beautiful and the cards too, and the lap blanket is so special and comforting. Thanks to all again and Pastor David for all the visits during his retirement.

God bless you all,  
Gary and Elaine Thiel

Friends at Augustana,

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt we received. It is very comforting. God bless you all.

Stan and Debi Anderson (Parents of Bev Anderson)

Dear Friends of Augustana,

Thank you so much for the prayer quilt you gave me for my surgery. It has certainly provided much warmth and comfort as I have been recovering from my back surgery. I am doing very well and looking forward to seeing everyone again real soon! Thanks again!

Darren Johnson

Friends at Augustana,

Thank you for the comfort blanket in memory of my mother, Barb Underwood.

Sincerely,  
Ben Underwood

**WELCOME BREXLEY DRAKE  
Congratulations to the Drake  
family!**

**Brexley Hope Drake**

Wes and Nikki Drake welcomed their daughter, Brexley Hope, to the world on Friday, July 23rd at 4:59 pm. Brexley weighed 7 pounds 10.8 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. She is also welcomed by her sisters, Chandler, Kynslie, Gentry, and Daegyn.



If you have Service Food Receipts, Our Family UPC codes, or pop tabs, drop them off in the church office or in the bin in the narthex next to the offering table. The receipts and UPC codes will be used to help local school's classrooms this fall. The pop tabs will help the Humane Society.



**COUNTRY  
BLOSSOM  
FARM**

All youth and family are invited following church on Sunday, October 10, 2021 to Country Blossom Farm. Maps will be available. In case of inclement weather, we will try to reschedule. Watch for more details.

**WELCOME LUNCH FOR  
AMY KELLY**

Amy Kelly's first Sunday at Augustana is on Sunday, September 12th at 10:00 am. We are very excited to have Amy joining the Augustana leadership. Following the service on the 12th, we will have welcome lunch for Amy in the fellowship hall. Hope you are able to attend and welcome Amy to Augustana!!

**JOINT YOUTH POSITION**

Augustana and First Lutheran councils have authorized the posting of a Joint Youth Director position who will work with both Augustana and First Lutheran 5th-12th grade youth. It is the hope to have someone interested in the position no later than November 1st.



## CROCKPOT PINEAPPLE PULLED PORK

- 3 lb. boneless port shoulder roast
- 1/4 tsp. ginger
- 15 oz. pineapple chunks, undrained
- Pineapple, if desired for serving
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 sprinkle pepper
- Sweet BBQ sauce
- Fresh cilantro

In a 5 quart or larger crockpot, place pork roast. Stab repeatedly with knife so that the juices and seasonings can penetrate the roast. Sprinkle with garlic salt, ginger, and pepper. Pour the can of pineapple chunks and their juice over the top. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours or on high for 3-4 hours. When done, shred with 2 forks right in the crockpot. Remove some of the meat from the crockpot and place in a skillet. Heat with some BBQ sauce and additional pineapple if desired. Serve on toasted buns and top with fresh cilantro. You can double the recipe and freeze. Gluten free if served on a gluten free bun and you use gluten free BBQ sauce.

## SIMPLE CROCKPOT RANCH POTATOES

- 1 - 28 oz. bag mini red potatoes
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 packet ranch dressing mix



Place the potatoes in a 4 quart crockpot and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with seasoning and cook on low for 5-6 hours or high for 2-3 hours.



## CROCKPOT CORN ON THE COB

- 6 ears corn
- Butter/salt etc.

Wrap each ear in aluminum foil, season or butter as desired. Place in the crockpot, cover and cook on high for 2 hours.

## CROCKPOT PEACH COBBLER

- 2 - 29 oz. cans peaches, drained
- 2 Tbs. brown sugar
- 1/2 C. melted butter or vegetable oil
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- Vanilla ice cream, optional for serving



In a 4 quart or larger crockpot add drained peaches and sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon. In a small bowl mix together melted butter or oil and cake mix until crumbs form. Sprinkle the cake mix crumbs on top of the peaches. Add a dash of cinnamon, if desired. Cover and cook on low for 4 hours or high for 2-2 1/2 hours. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.



## BLACKBERRY LIMEADE

- 1 C. fresh blackberries
- Juice of two large limes
- 2-2 1/2 C. cold water
- 3 Tbs. coconut sugar
- 5 basil leaves
- basil leaves and fresh blackberries, for garnish

In a pot over high heat, add the blackberries, sugar, limes, basil leaves and 1/2 cup water. Smash the blackberries with the back of a wooden spoon and stir to combine. Bring to a boil then reduce to medium heat to cook for about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool for about 5 minutes, then pour into a blender to blend everything together again. Strain over a pitcher to remove seeds and solids. Add in the extra 1 1/2 or 2 cups of cold water and stir together (add 1 1/2 cups first then taste to see if you'll need the extra 1/2 cup). Serve immediately with fresh blackberries and basil leaves in each glass.



## Welcome to our new custodians!

We have hired David Haberdank through Productive Alternatives as our custodian. David and his job coach, Jeremy Hayhurst, work Monday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

### Prayer Requests

We would like to keep our prayer list up to date. Please let Angie know if we should keep someone on the prayer list or if you have any new prayer requests. Call her at (218)205-8135 or send an email to [office@augustanalutheran.org](mailto:office@augustanalutheran.org).

### Christ in Our Home

If you would like a copy of the new Christ in Our Home, please let Angie know and she will mail one to you. You can call her at (218)736-5308 or email her at [office@augustanalutheran.org](mailto:office@augustanalutheran.org)

### Prayer Chain

Would you like to pray for our members and friends that have prayer requests? If so, join our prayer chain! You will be added to the email group and will receive an email prayer request from the office. We need more people to be a part of our prayer chain. If you are interested, please let Angie know and she will add you to the group. You can call her at (218)736-5308 or email her at [office@augustanalutheran.org](mailto:office@augustanalutheran.org)

### The Welcome House

The Welcome House is looking for volunteers for its non-profit thrift store. The Welcome House is located at 1678 College Way (behind Fleet Farm). Purchases in the Welcome House's thrift store help pregnant and single mothers who are living in poverty. Please contact Pastor Gretchen at First Lutheran (739-3348) if you are interested in volunteering.



### Volunteer Opportunities for Sunday Worship at Augustana

**Augustana needs your help to make things happen! We have had many volunteers over the course of the last 6 months would like to thank each one of you for standing up to do your part and being an integral part of the ministry. But, it takes a lot of time and effort by a lot of people to successfully connect with one another, worship together, and grow opportunities for ministry. Even if you are not comfortable reading during a service or helping with fall clean-up we have various opportunities that may interest you. Please let Angie know what areas you may be able to help or if you would like to be added to a list for specific duties such as ushering, helping with Sunday School crafts, or helping serve coffee and donuts.**



### Thursday Noon Bible Study

Amy Kelly will be leading a Thursday Noon Bible Study beginning September 16th. This study will be on the book *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. The bible study will be offered in person in the church fellowship hall or via Zoom. The book is available in the office for \$15. Please join us!



# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00 pm Supper 5:30 pm Worship service	2 9:00 am Piecemaker Quilting in fellowship hall	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship service at First Lutheran	6	7	8	9 9:00 am Piecemaker Quilting in fellowship hall	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship service at Augustana, lunch following service Welcome to Amy Kelly!	13	14 9:15 am Ruth Circle in fellowship hall 12:00 pm Deborah Circle in fellowship hall	15	16 9:00 am Piecemaker Quilting in fellowship hall 12:00 pm Noon Bible Study in fellowship hall or via Zoom	17	18
19 9:15-9:50 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship service at Augustana	20	21	22 5:15 pm Council Meeting	23 9:00 am Piecemaker Quilting in fellowship hall 12:00 pm Noon Bible Study in fellowship hall or via Zoom	24	25
26 9:15-9:50 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship service at Augustana	27	28	29 6:00 pm Confirmation student and parents meeting	30 9:00 am Piecemaker Quilting in fellowship hall 12:00 pm Noon Bible Study in fellowship hall or via Zoom		

**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
**308 East Douglas Avenue**  
**Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #258  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

<b>Amy Kelly</b> Intern Pastor <i>pastor@augustanalutheran.org</i>	<b>Meghan Stringer</b> Organist <i>msmusicmeg@gmail.com</i> (218) 290-3489
<b>Angie Drechsel</b> Office and Finance Administrator <i>office@augustanalutheran.org</i> (218)205-8135	<b>Ed Shea</b> Boiler Operator

DATED MATERIAL—Mailed from Fergus Falls Post Office  
September 2, 2021

**Newsletter Announcements**  
due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

**Bulletin Announcements**  
due by Wednesday at noon

## Augustana Sunday Schedule

**9:15-10:00** Coffee Hour-Coffee and Donuts in the fellowship hall. Please keep all food and beverage in the fellowship hall to allow those that would like to enter the sanctuary and gather in a masked environment that ability.

**9:15-9:50** Sunday School in the west portion of the fellowship hall (Starting September 19th). For all kids ages 4-6th grade. Middle School Sunday morning activities will start later in the fall.

**10:00** Worship in the Sanctuary.

