

Augsburg Lutheran Church

The Christmas Call

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The Christmas Call

From the Pastor

Advent blessings be with you this day. I pray that this newsletter finds you healthy and happy.

One of the wonderful miracles of Christmas is that God, through Jesus, has come to earth. The birth of Jesus is God incarnate, God made flesh. God is made real; God is active in our lives; God is here, beside us. The miracle of Christmas is that God is no longer separate from us, watching us, but has come to earth to be part of humanity in all it's struggles and joys.

One of the ways we experience God's presence is by being together in community. As Christians we serve together, we sacrifice, we encourage, we pray together: in effect, we do life together. Augsburg, let's do life *together*.

Let the coming birth of the Christ child inspire us to remember that through the incarnation, together we can do anything. That's what God said – "I love you so much, I'm coming down there. Let's do this together"

Christmas blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Nadine

Christmas Eve Worship

There will be three worship services this year: 5:30pm, 7:00pm and 8:30pm. The services will be identical in format and content.

Please take special note that **an RSVP will be required for Christmas Eve**. It is possible that we may see an increase in attendance, and managing potential crowd sizes is still important, even with relaxed measures. **Please RSVP to the church office by December 20th**. Please tell us the names of who is coming, and which service you'd like to attend.

Quiet singing, proof-of-vaccination, and facemask requirements will all be in effect for Christmas Eve, just like Sunday worship.

Worship Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help at worship services. Since re-opening in September the volunteer duties have fallen to a small number of people and they need some help. We need volunteers for all times of the year, but especially so for our Christmas services. We need ushers and greeters for Christmas Eve and for Sunday, December 26. Please let the office know if you are available to help.

2022 Offering Envelopes

The 2022 offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up. You can pick them up on Sundays or at the during the week during office hours; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am – 12 noon.

Financial Update

As of the end of October, Augsburg's financial position is as follows:

Year to date revenue (excluding daycare rent):	\$91,737
Year to date expenses for general operations:	\$136,367
Year to date deficit for general operations:	\$43,740

Year to date budgeted deficit:	\$38,190
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The last day to get your 2021 donation to the church for tax receipt purposes is **Wednesday, December 29, 2021**. There are four ways you can donate:

1. **Drop off:** you can drop your donation at the church and pop it through the mail slot (it's in the frame of the door, at eye level).
2. **Mail:** you can mail us your donation (make sure you send it early enough so that it gets here by December 29th.)
3. **eTransfer:** you can send an etransfer to office@aug Bram.ca. We have set it up so that a password is not required.
4. **PAR:** For a more consistent donation throughout the year, you can set up a regular automatic withdrawal through the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program. Contact the office to do so. office@aug Bram.ca

CLWR Urgent Appeal

Massive floods and landslides have devastated parts of British Columbia, destroying roads and leaving several mountain towns isolated. CLWR invites you to pray for the people of British Columbia, and to consider making a gift to support recovery efforts. Your gift will provide emergency support and hope for recovery. CLWR is accepting donations now on its website at clwr.org/BCfloods . Donations can also be made by phoning our office at 1.800.661.2597 (Monday to Thursday, 9:00 – 16:00 CDT) or by mailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5.

New COVID Procedures

Last week you received a letter outlining the changes for attending in-person worship. Starting now:

1. We will be checking your proof of double vaccination or medical exemption letter for those 12 years and older, as per public health guidelines.
2. All people attending church are required to wear masks.
3. You will not need to pre-register your attendance for Sunday morning services.
4. The tape in the pews is gone.
5. Even though we are relaxing the physical distancing rule, it would be prudent to continue keeping some distance from others.
 - Everyone should be mindful that individuals have different comfort levels when gathering in larger groups. This means that each one of us needs to be aware of how we are interacting with fellow worshippers. Please be respectful of other people's boundaries.
 - If you wish to continue to keep a 2 metre distance from others while seated in worship, please mention this to the ushers and they will seat you appropriately.
6. The cloak room is available for your use.
7. Our worship services will also be less restrictive:
 - services will still be shorter than normal
 - we are inviting the congregation to **quietly** sing all the hymns.
 - we are inviting you forward to receive communion (bread only).

To be clear, if you have chosen to not get vaccinated, unfortunately you won't be able to worship with us in person. Our streaming service is available for those who would like to worship from home.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed between December 24 and January 3.