

The Call

THE NEWSLETTER OF AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us on **Tuesday, February 21** for a Pancake Supper! The cost is \$7.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. Dinner will be served between **5:00 pm and 7:00 pm**. You can sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex.

****Note:** Men are needed to help in the kitchen. Please sign up or talk to David Frey if you can help**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

ASHES AND LENT

Sunday, February 26 is the first Sunday in Lent. At this service we will include an invitation to begin a personal Lenten spiritual practice, and the congregation will be invited forward to receive ashes, if desired. We hope you can join us on this Sunday.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

ANNUAL MEETING & POT LUCK LUNCH

Sunday, March 5 has been set as the date of Augsburg's Annual General Meeting. The Annual report will be ready two weeks before the meeting.

To celebrate our life and ministry together, we will have a pot luck lunch following the meeting. Please mark the date in your calendars and plan to attend.

FROM THE PASTOR

I subscribe to a newsletter written by Christian author and theologian Diana Butler Bass. She writes each week on a variety of topics, but the one that gave me pause to reflect was on friendship. She quotes an article she read that stated that COVID has taught us how to be lonely. That resonated with me so deeply. COVID changed so many things and one of the things that we did well has hunker down and isolate. Unfortunately, the repercussions of that is that we have forgotten how to be with people; we socialize less, we've had fewer gatherings and we've stopped going to parties. Some people had legitimate concerns about the disease, but most people rarely go out anymore because we are just out of the habit. As Ms. Bass writes, "the problem is that COVID weakened our habit of participating in [events] leaving many millions of us much lonelier... In effect, COVID broke many of our habits, including habits of relationships and friendship."

But here's an interesting thing: we were made for friendship, with God, the creation and each other. In the Wisdom of Solomon 7:27 it is written "*In every generation [wisdom] passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets*" In Bass' book Freeing Jesus, she writes:

"Two of Israel's greatest heroes, Abraham, the father of faith, and Moses, the liberating prophet, are specifically called friends of God. In Isaiah 41:8, God refers to Abraham as "my friend," a tradition that carries into the New Testament (James 2:23). Of Moses, Exodus says: "The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend" (33:11), a very rare intimacy, for such close proximity to the divine usually meant death (33:20). . . The point is that friendship with God establishes the covenant – and that Israel is freed from bondage into a new family forged by friendship through the law given by Moses. Friendship with God is not a biblical side story; rather, it is central to the promises and faithfulness of being a called people, in which all are friends, companions, intimates, siblings, and beloved."

So, as Christians, as people still committed to meeting together as children of God, how can we be a "friendly" church? How can we re-learn what it's like to be together, practicing things like empathy and service? How can we re-establish the habits of ritual that give our lives deeper meaning? What habits that have been lost in recent years would we like to pick up once again?

This is the moment when we can, and should be, supporting one another to regain, remake and re-establish friendships. As a congregation committed to others, this is the moment when we can reach out to those who are lonely and say - "you are a friend."

Blessings,
Pastor Nadine

From the Eastern Synod

You are invited to the Bishops Spiritual Retreat for Laypersons. Our theme this time will be "The Midnight Guide to the Bible. Not your usual Bible Study: examining the scriptures through murder, sex, money, mistakes, #MeToo, and real estate!" The retreat will be held from Friday March 24th - Sunday March 26th, at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The all-inclusive registration rate is \$275.00. Please speak to Pastor Nadine for more information.

VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers to help out at Sunday Worship. The more volunteers we can get, the fewer dates you will have to cover, and no one is left holding the ball every Sunday. Please contact the office or Pastor Nadine if you can help.

Opportunities include:

- Ushering
- reading the lessons
- serving Communion
- setting up communion
- hosting coffee fellowship



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is a reminder to all families that Sunday School continues to be offered every Sunday.

Since COVID, families are finding it more of a challenge to be at Sunday School on a consistent basis and thus we have also found it hard to develop and maintain an exciting Sunday School community.

Lallita Gunness is working hard to provide learning every Sunday for those who show up.

We hope that throughout the season we can grow our Sunday School again to the vibrant place it was.

THANK YOU FROM THE PASTOR

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends of Augsburg who have reached out, made donations, sent cards, said prayers, gave hugs, and offered condolences, upon the death of my father in early January. I am grateful and comforted by the love you have shown toward me at this difficult time.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to Don Wilker and Ernie Skujins who filled in for me at worship while I was away.

I am blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation. Peace and love, Pastor Nadine.

SUMMER LUTHERAN YOUTH CAMP

Come and join us for a week at Summer Lutheran Youth Camp (SLYC) from **August 27 until September 1, 2023** at Camp Kintail located on beautiful Lake Huron. Youth entering grade 7 and up are invited to come for a week of intentional Christian community through fellowship, fun, worship, and theme discovery time. If you would like more information please speak to Pastor Nadine and watch for an invitation to a camp information meeting soon.



WORSHIP SERVICES

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| February 26, 2023 | Lent 1 | 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship |
| March 5, 2023 | Lent 2 | 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting 12 noon Pot Luck Lunch |
| March 12, 2023 | Lent 3 | 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship |
| March 19, 2023 | Lent 4 | 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship |
| March 26, 2023 | Lent 5 | 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship |