

AUGUSTANA  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**AUGUST 2025**

Official Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church

## Summer Sunday Schedule

June 8 - August 31

**9:30**

Worship in the sanctuary

**10:30**

Coffee Fellowship in fellowship hall



**September 1**

10:00 worship will resume

### 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."

*Augustana  
Staff*

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Custodial Staff

DAVID HABEDANK  
Productive Alternatives

Boiler Operator  
ED SHEA





# From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

I pray a lot lately. God hears from me often. Sometimes in gratitude, often in petitions for all of you – the beloved people of God. I hear about your needs in texts, e-mails, phone calls, in person and from your friends. Even though I know God is aware of your needs – I pray anyway. Because it is what we as a community of faith are called to do - lift our needs, our hurts, our hopes and our dreams to God. We are to lift up the lives of one another to God.

The naysayers might retort – yeah, but what are you **DOING** about all these difficult circumstances? I just told you, I'm praying. I'm praying for answers. I'm praying for guidance. I'm praying that the Holy Spirit is guiding me and guiding you to a Christ-filled life even among the difficult stuff.

Prayer changes us. It isn't performative. It is an authentic expression of our deepest longings to God. Sometimes prayer is self-serving: "Please help me to not look like an idiot God." That's OK. Most often our prayers come from our deep love, our deep wounds, our sincere connection with God.

Some people, even believers, don't find comfort in prayer or see the use for it. I doubt I will convince anyone with a newsletter article. However, if that is your belief, I challenge you to try praying about the parts of your life that are most important to you. If you feel comfortable, ask me or someone else to pray for things in your life as well. Call it a Holy Experiment if that makes it feel more concrete. Whether you're digging in the garden, changing oil on the car, or scrolling on your phone you can offer up prayers. If you struggle with how to pray, use the one Jesus taught us with the Lord's Prayer and see whatever else comes to mind.

Blessings on your holy experiment or keep on going prayer champions!

Praying with and for you –

*Pastor Amy*





# **THE JORDAN PROJECT UPDATE**

After much planning and preparation our Jordan Project projects are coming to life.

The Blessing Bags with the items that the congregation donated are being dropped off in batches for distribution. Thank you for supplying the toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and all the other necessary supplies for people who need a little help.



Also, we have prepared vegetable and fruit packages twice for Augustana Apartment residents. Thank you to those who shopped for the produce, cleaned and cut it up and delivered it to the apartments. These are tangible ways we can help others and we are grateful for the Jordan Project and all of you for making these two project happen.

We will continue with the fruit/vegetable deliveries in August and September and then see if funding allows to continue. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our neighbors.



## **CHAD NEULEIB & FAMILY *Benefit***

*The benefit was held at  
Augustana on Tuesday, June 24.*



We'd like to thank all those that volunteered, donated and attended Chad's benefit. We are truly grateful for such a wonderful church family and community. Thank you all again. We are truly blessed.

Chad, Beth, Hope and Grace Neuleib





## CHURCH FINANCES

In July the congregation received a letter from the council that our general offering revenues were trending behind. Since we received a sizeable one-time gift in January, the monthly decline wasn't as evident. The church council was given an update the end of May and it was determined the congregation should be notified of the downward monthly trend. We know summer is often lower for offering, however we were seeing our general offering revenue lower than what was needed in March through May, thus a letter was sent.

We also received an annual gift in June that bolstered our June revenue.

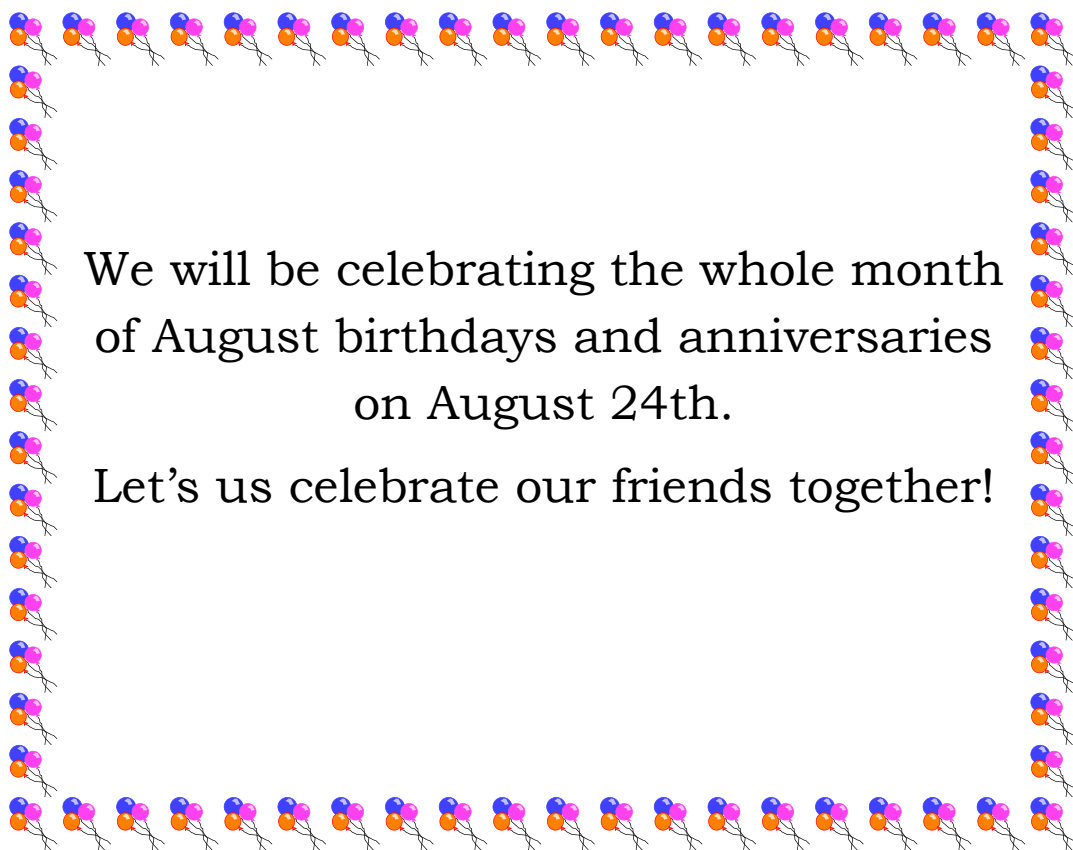
Our Actual General Offering Revenue through June 30, 2025 is \$91,242.

Our Budgeted General Offering Revenue through June 30, 2025 is \$78,750.

Thank you for your continued support for Augustana. We are grateful to each person that keeps our church financially viable.

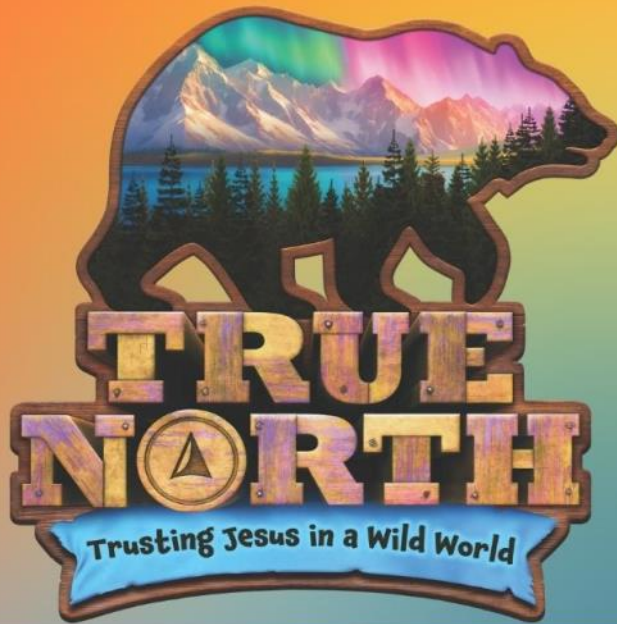


- Augustana Church has an online giving option through Tithe.ly
- You can access the online giving a few different ways. Here's how:
  - Visit Augustana's Facebook page and click on the link
  - Visit [augustanalutheran.org](http://augustanalutheran.org) and click on the Give button
  - Download the Tithe.ly app to your smartphone and find Augustana Lutheran Church
  - Scan the QR Code
- You can also mail your offering to the church. 308 E. Douglas Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
- If you are interested in using Simply Giving, contact the office and we will get you an authorization form to fill out and we will get you set up



We will be celebrating the whole month  
of August birthdays and anniversaries  
on August 24th.

Let's us celebrate our friends together!



**Aug. 4–7**  
**5 to 7:30 p.m.**

A COLLABORATION OF THE  
5 FERGUS FALLS ELCA CHURCHES

HOSTED AT  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Summer Worship 'Being Church Together'

Our five ELCA churches in Fergus Falls are combining once again for summer worship on Wednesdays. If you happen to be gone on the weekends or just enjoy worshipping with new people in different places, come worship on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.. There will be simple refreshments and a time for fellowship following worship.



### Worship Schedule - 6:30 p.m.

- **August 6 (7p.m.) @ Bethlehem**
- **August 13 @ First**
- **August 20 @ Hope**



Heading to the lake or traveling for the summer? Remember your monetary gifts to Augustana! If you spend time at the lake and/or travel during the summer, which means you don't make it to church Sunday mornings, remember your monetary gifts to Augustana.

To make giving easy, consider automatic contributions. Let Tithely do the work! [www.tithely.com](http://www.tithely.com) is a digital giving platform especially designed for churches; it provides for secure donations from anywhere, at any time. Recurring giving can easily be set up which improves giving consistency. Augustana is set up to receive contributions via this giving platform.

Continued, consistent contributions during the summer assist in managing the programming and mission of Augustana.



## SAVE THE DATE

The fall kickoff event will be on Sunday, Sept. 21.

There will be lunch after worship and the Vikings vs. Bengals will start at noon!



# Women's All Day BIBLE STUDY

The women's all-day bible study was held on July 23.



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Augustana friends gathered for ice cream on July 20.



# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship; Coffee fellowship following worship	4 12:00 pm Outreach Board Meeting	5	6 7:00 pm Wednesday Worship @ Bethlehem	7 9:00 am Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm Bible Study	8	9
10 9:30 am Rejoice Worship; Meal following worship	11 5:30 pm Council Meeting	12	13 6:30 pm Wednesday Worship @ First Lutheran	14 9:00 am Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship; Coffee fellowship following worship 11:00 am Stewardship	18 3:00 pm Men's Pie @ Perkins	19	20 6:30 pm Wednesday Worship @ Hope	21 9:00 am Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm Bible Study	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship; August birthday celebration following worship 31 9:30 am Worship; Coffee fellowship following worship	25	26	27 11:30 am Ladies Lunch @ Cally's Café	28 9:00 am Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall	29	30