

# AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MAY 2026

Official Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church



**9:15**

**Coffee Hour**  
Coffee and treats  
in fellowship hall

**10:00**

**Worship in the  
sanctuary**

**11:00**

**Coffee fellowship  
continues**

## Summer Sunday Schedule

May 24 - September 7



**9:30**

**Worship in the sanctuary**

**10:30**

**Coffee Fellowship in fellowship hall**

### 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*

Pastor

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Boiler Operator

ED SHEA



## *From Our Pastor*

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by doing that some have entertained angels  
without knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2*

Greetings!

The end of April I attended my third and final First Call Conference. These annual get togethers for deacons and pastors in their first three years of ministry have been important learning opportunities. We learn from one another, share our joys and sorrows and gain new knowledge from speakers and presentations.

This year, our meetings took place at Christus Rex – the Lutheran Ministry on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. We had the pleasure of attending Sunday night worship with students on campus and afterwards eating a meal with them.

Having spent a lot of time around campus ministry in my previous career it was fun to be welcomed into their worship space. Our group doubled the number of those who came to worship and to eat supper and they were quick to pull out additional tables as they invited us into their space.

We were strangers. They were moving into their last classes of the semester, along with tests, and the weight of the final push was understandable. However, that did not diminish their hospitality. We shared two tables with these students – Christ's table with communion and the supper tables around lasagna and bread. What a blessing!

While we were new and strangers to these students, somehow I felt like we still belonged. During our conference we talked about belonging and how we can welcome everyone, but only they get to determine if they feel like they belong. That is one of the tests of our hospitality. As the conversation and laughter punctuated the room, I was reminded of a song I learned in the last year called "Crowded Table."

One of the verses says: "If you want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed. Plant a little happiness. Let the roots run deep."

We can't just hope for a garden, we have to plant one. In the same way we can't hope for a crowded table, we have to create a wide welcome to have one. Jesus told us that with the story of the wedding feast. We hear that in the words of Hebrews, do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers. Who knows who we might be entertaining unaware. I'll leave you with the "Crowded Table" refrain as we ponder how we will welcome the stranger.

*I want a house with a crowded table  
And a place by the fire for everyone  
Let us take on the world while we're young and able  
And bring us back together when the day is done*

In Christ,  
*Pastor Amy*

FERGUS FALLS ELCA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 15-18**

**5:00-7:30PM**

**AGES 0-12 YEARS OLD**

At First Lutheran Church. Hosted by the Fergus Falls ELCA Churches, open to all kids birth to 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Supper for each night and a t-shirt are provided.

**\$25/CHILD**

**OR**

**\$75 /FAMILY**



**REGISTER HERE**



AUGUSTANA  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Summer Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Sunday, May 31  
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

1 for \$3 or  
6 for \$13



# Otter Care Community Initiative

Do you share household, gardening, or automotive tools with family and friends in the hope that someone else will find them useful?

A local nonprofit, Otter Care Community Initiative (<https://ottercare.org/>), will soon be providing a repair “cafe” and tool share program that would not only extend the life of everyday items, but also demonstrate to newcomers how communities might better serve one another, passing along “how to’s” and simple solutions that bring back neighborliness.

Curious? Speaker Ashley Armstrong will present information about plans for a Fix-It Clinic and a tool-lending library along with a Farm-to-Table Marketplace that partners with local regenerative and organic farmers to provide community members with healthy foods.

Make plans to attend our May WELCA speaker meeting at Augustana’s Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, May 12, beginning at 10 am.** The WELCA business meeting will follow Ms. Armstrong’s presentation.



# BINGO Night!

Augustana friends gathered for a Friday night filled with Bingo, pizza, and fun!



Join us for

# CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 3, 2026 • 10:00 AM  
Augustana Lutheran Church

JOIN US FOR

# Senior Recognition Sunday

**MAY 17, 2026**

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April 22, 2026

- Summer worship schedule: Worship services will be at 9:30AM Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.
- There will be an installation of new council members during the May 17th worship service.
- Council members are completing a survey which will help identify some key priorities and goals for Augustana this year.
- A summer youth mission trip to Wisconsin is being planned. There will be 7 students and 3 adult chaperones going on the trip. They are planning a cinnamon roll Sunday as a fund-raising event.
- VBS with all 5 Fergus Falls ELCA churches will be at First Lutheran Church June 15-18 in the evenings. A few volunteers will be needed.
- Patti Rix will be working in the office every Thursday starting in April. Jen Sternhagen will continue to work in the office every Wednesday.
- The council meeting dates for the upcoming year were set. Meetings will be held at 5:30PM.

Congratulations to  
Shepherd and  
Audra Hintz on their  
baptism.

*April 20, 2026*





We will be celebrating the whole month of May birthdays and anniversaries on May 31. Let's celebrate our friends together!

**CHURCH FINANCES**

ACTUAL GENERAL OFFERING REVENUE THROUGH 3/31/26:	\$46,098.27
BUDGETED GENERAL OFFERING REVENUE THROUGH 3/31/26:	\$40,377.00
ACTUAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE THROUGH 3/31/26:	\$53,040.83
BUDGETED GENERAL FUND EXPENSE THROUGH 3/31/26:	\$61,956.00

\*GENERAL OFFERING REVENUE DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING OUTSIDE OF GENERAL GIVING SUCH AS INTEREST INVESTMENT INCOME, MEMORIALS, THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS, AND MISSION SUPPORT GRANTS FROM THE AUGUSTANA FOUNDATION.



- 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

*As we head into May, our general offering revenue is looking strong. While those numbers reflect some annual gifts, these numbers show an amazing dedication to our church and its mission. Thank you for all your gifts and tithes. As we move into summer, we know regular giving can be a challenge, however we are starting strong and that is a testament to the faithful people of Augustana.*

*Just another way we all are letting our light shine!*

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
					1
<b>3 Confirmation Sunday</b> <b>9:15 am</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10 am</b> Worship; Coffee fellowship following worship	4	5	6	<b>7</b> <b>9 am</b> Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall <b>12 pm</b> Bible Study	8
<b>10</b> <b>9:15 am</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10 am</b> Rejoice Worship; Meal following worship	11	<b>12</b> <b>10 am</b> WELCA Speaker	13	<b>14</b> <b>9 am</b> Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall	15
<b>17 Senior Recognition Sunday</b> <b>9:15 am</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10 am</b> Worship; Coffee fellowship following worship <b>11:30 am</b> Stewardship Board	<b>18</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> Men's Pie @ Perkins	19	<b>20</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Worship Board	<b>21</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Piecemakers Quilting in Fellowship Hall <b>12 pm</b> Bible Study	22
<b>24 *Worship Time Change*</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship; Coffee fellowship following worship  <b>31</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship; May birthday celebration following worship	<b>25</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	26	<b>27</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Ladies Lunch @ Cally's Café  <b>5:30 pm</b> Council Meeting	28	29

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE WEDNESDAY AT NOON | NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE 15TH OF MONTH