

FEBRUARY 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran



Good News from Augustana Lutheran Church

a word from PASTOR AMY



What's INSIDE this issue . . .

- 2 - Church Council, Bethany Valentines, Ash Wednesday**
- 3 - Food to You Give Away**
- 5 - Youth Activities / Charis Job Opening**
- 5 - FIY; Thank You**
- 7 - FEBRUARY Calendar**
- 8 - FEBRUARY Bible Readings; FEBRUARY Birthdays**
- 9 - Serving Others; Women's Ministries**
- 10 - Augustana Financials**
- 11 - SD Synod FEB Inserts**
- 13- What's Happening**
- Contact Information**

Last year around this time, I visited a friend's church that was handing out "star words" to use to guide your faith in 2020, just as the star guided the magi. You drew the words out of a basket, so the word you selected was random. When I picked my word, my husband and I both laughed. The word was flexible and we both know I struggle to be flexible. I was not excited to have selected the word flexible to focus on for an entire year.

Looking back, I cannot think of a better word than flexible to guide me through 2020. I never dreamed of all the changes that would come this year or of all the ways we would have to change how we are the church. Flexibility was needed as we changed how we worshiped, how Bible studies happened, and made big changes to the events we were able to have at church. Flexibility was at the center of everything in 2020.

This year I hope I will not have to focus on flexibility quite so much. While we have a long road ahead of us, I am looking forward to the return of our normal schedules and patterns. Yet, I have learned that with flexibility comes openness and when we are open, we often find God in new ways and places. I was blessed in 2020 to feel God's presence as we worshiped over Zoom, in phone calls to ALC members, in more family time, and in the care that all of you showed for each other and the community.

This year I wish for each of you a little more rest, a little less stress, and less need for that word flexibility. Yet, I do hope we can all hold onto our openness and continue to be surprised at the new places God shows up in our life.

In Christ,



a word from **The Church Council**

At our annual meeting on Sunday, January 24th we elected Lyla Pedersen and Michelle Huebner to serve on church council. I thank both of them for their willingness to serve as leaders of our congregation. They will be installed as council members in worship in February. In the meeting we also approved the updated that were made to our church constitution and by-laws. If you would like an updated copy of the constitution or the annual meeting they can be picked up at the church office.

In Christ,
Pastor Amy

Valentines for Bethany Lutheran Home-This pandemic has been extremely lonely for the residents of Bethany Lutheran Home. Augustana Lutheran is a owner church of Bethany, and one of the ways we can support them during this time is by sending Valentines to the residents. They can be either store bought or homemade. You may mail them in bulk. You can mail them to:

Valentine Bethany Meadows
3012 E Aspen Blvd
Brandon, SD 57005



Ash Wednesday- Ash Wednesday Services will be held on February 17th at 5:30 pm. A worship video will also be emailed out to the congregation. If you would like to receive ashes, but will not be attending worship, you can come to the church from 6:30-7:00 for Drive-thru Ashes. Pastor Amy will mark you will ashes and offer a short prayer all while you stay in the car. Please let us know if you have any questions.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN sponsoring the Food-to-You give away Thursday, December 17th



AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN sponsoring the Food-to-You give away Thursday, December 17th, cont.





Youth activities

LOGOS: In Logos during January, we learned about Epiphany and the visit of the Magi. We also studied Jesus' baptism and stories about Jesus' teachings and healings. We will continue to study Jesus' ministry in February. We continue to meet over Zoom and include lots of movement and activities into our time together.



Great Bear-You are all invited to Great Bear for a fun night of Snow Tubing on Wednesday, February 3rd from 5:30-8:00. Pizza and pop will be provided. We ask families to contribute \$5 a person of you are able. Transportation is available if needed. Masks are required at Great Bear. Please let Pastor Amy know if you plan to attend.

Charis Ministry Partners is looking for someone to act as Treasurer. Responsibilities include:

Treasurer Duties

- Write and mail out checks to vendors. Normally 4 or 5 checks a month
- Enter checks and receipts into QuickBooks. This takes approximately 1 hour or less per month. Deposits are made by Todd Smith at Food To You.
- Enter debit card transactions from bank statements. About 5 to 10 per month.
- Reconcile bank accounts. 4 accounts.
- Review and print out financials for monthly meeting. Preparing bank recons, entering debit transactions and printing out reports takes 1 hour or less per month.
- Other duties during the year:
 - Send out invoices as needed for special donations (1 or 2 a year)
 - Prepare annual report with State of SD
 - Print out reports for CPA firm to prepare annual tax return
 - Renewal sales tax exemption every 5 years

We have a subscription from TechSoup for our QuickBooks. It can be downloaded onto your computer.

If interested, contact Aaron Matson at matsonac@gmail.com



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH BY BUYING AND USING HYVEE CARDS to do your HyVee shopping. **Due to COVID-19 and the practice of “social distancing” going forward, till we no longer have to social distance, you can purchase your HyVee cards by calling Linda Sanden at 413-8984 or email her at sanden@sio.midco.net to make arrangements.** You can purchase cards in \$25, \$50, \$100 (no more \$200 cards available) **a full five percent of what you spend comes back to the church.** Since the beginning of this program **\$23,600** has been contributed towards our day-to-day ministry expenses. The cards are very convenient to use. **Thanks to Jim and Linda Sanden** for managing the HyVee card’s fund.



Thank You

This month we recognize the following for sharing their gifts:

THANK YOU to **Sadie Sauby** for her faithful service on the church council. We appreciate you sharing your gifts.

THANK YOU to **Everyone** who donated items for the Children’s Inn Angel Tree. It was so wonderful to see your generosity this Christmas season.

THANK YOU to **Linda Sanden** and **Nancy Kremin** for helping as worship assistants in January.

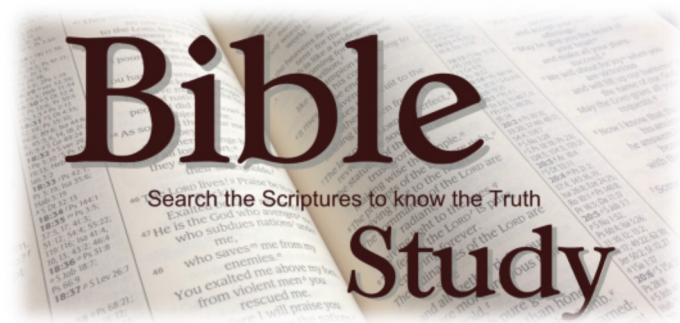
THANK YOU to **Pueblo de Dios, Autumn Kaufhold,** and **Anna Amundson** for helping to keep our church clean during January.

THANK YOU to **Linda Sanden** and **Anna Amundson** for delivering offering envelopes.


February



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31 9:00am - Zoom Worship with Communion 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	1 FEBRUARY	2	3 12 Noon-1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 5:30 Snow Tubing at Great Bear	4	5	6
7 9:00am - Zoom Worship with Communion 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	8 5:30pm - ALC Council Mtg	9	10 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 6:00pm - LOGOS Zoom	11	12	13
14 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	15	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 5:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm - NO LOGOS Zoom	18 6:00pm - Food-to-You (Drive-Up)	19	20
21 9:00am - Zoom Worship with Communion 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	22	23	24 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 6:00pm - LOGOS Zoom	25	26	27
28 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 11:00am - Annual Mtg 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	1 MARCH	2	3 12 Noon-1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 6:00pm - LOGOS Zoom	4	5	6



**SCRIPTURE READINGS
FOR
FEBRUARY 2021**

<p align="center">FEBRUARY 7TH</p> <p align="center">Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p align="center">Raising the Widow's Son Luke 7: 1-17 <i>(Psalm 119: 105-107)</i> <i>Healing the centurion's slave by a word and raising the widow's son at Nain.</i></p>	<p align="center">FEBRUARY 14</p> <p align="center">Transfiguration of our Lord</p> <p align="center">Transfiguration Luke 9: 28-45 <i>(Psalm 36: 5-10)</i> <i>Transfiguration, healing a boy with a demon, passion prediction.</i></p>	<p align="center">FEBRUARY 17</p> <p align="center">Ash Wednesday</p> <p align="center">Jesus Turns to Jerusalem Luke 9:51-62 <i>(Psalm 5: 7-8)</i> <i>Jesus starts for Jerusalem, rejected in Samaria. Don't put your hand to the plow and turn back.</i></p>
<p align="center">FEBRUARY 21</p> <p align="center">First Sunday in Lent</p> <p align="center">Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-42 <i>(Psalm 15)</i> <i>Parable of the Good Samaritan</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p align="center"></p> <p align="center"><i>Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.</i></p> <p align="center">ECCLESIASTES 3 : 20</p>	<p align="center">FEBRUARY 28</p> <p align="center">Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p align="center">Lament over Jerusalem Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35 <i>(Psalm 122)</i> <i>The tower in Siloam and need for repentance, parable of the fig tree that bore no fruit, lament over Jerusalem.</i></p>



5th - Kristopher MacBeath
16th - Patricia Moffett

9th - Lyla Pedersen
20th - Meredith Cervanez

13th - Sadie Sauby



Ongoing Servant Ministry Projects @ ALC

FOOD-TO-YOU -

On Thursday, JANUARY 21st starting at 6 p.m., Food-To-You will do a drive-up distribution of food. We will not be providing a meal at this time.



Women's Ministry

Augustana Lutheran Church Women ALCW and QUILTERS

- ◆ **Quilting** - 9:00 am every Tuesday (Are not meeting during the Pandemic)
- ◆ **The ALCW is not meeting during COVID.**



Shower Your Church with Blessings!!

If you would like to bless the church, in-kind donations needed are:

- Size D Batteries,**
- White and Colored Copy Paper,**
- Postage (regular, extra ounce, postcard - we have been going through a lot of postage during this COVID - 19)**

Your gifts make a big difference!

DECEMBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
RECEIPTS	
Sunday and Holiday Offerings	\$ 10,120.00
Building Fund Offerings	2,100.00
Noisy Offering	69.14
Free-will donations from Thanksgiving meal	330.00
Fundraising (HyVee Card Sales)	75.00
World Hunger	30.00
Mission Partners (Pierre Lutheran)	100.00
Pueblo de Dios	350.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 13,174.14
EXPENDITURES	
ELCA Missions and World Hunger	\$ 370.00
Church on the Street - Noisy Offering	150.55
Hosted Food to You	300.00
Advertising/Outreach/Devotionals/Worship Materials	33.72
LOGOS	66.05
Office Supplies	179.09
Water / Sewer / Garbage / Elec / Phone / Internet / Heat	2,232.15
Insurance (2 months)	1,532.66
Maintenance & Repair	480.83
Staff Support	7,161.91
Mortgage Payment	2,500.00
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	51.31
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 15,058.27

Current balance on the church mortgage is \$44,601.17

**For complete information regarding 2020 Finances,
Please refer to the Annual Report.**



February 2021 Newsletter Inserts

Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! - You have heard me say it from the beginning and since then over and over again that as the church we will never be able to go back to normal as we learn to live with COVID. You may wonder: "What does that mean?" It means that even if we would be able to return to the church that we were prior to COVID, we would need to examine, if that is even what we would want to do. Prior to the pandemic I have heard you say, that you didn't like the way the church was and that you wished for it to be different. I want you to know that I hear you, that your synod staff hears you and that we are currently assembling a task force that works on revitalizing ministry as we learn to live with COVID in our midst and continue to be church and the people of God. The task force will be working on a framework that will help you in your ministry site to lean and live into revitalizing ministry in God's name in your context. Please watch for details to come soon.

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

All Things New

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Happy New Year! The word "new" shows up a number of times in Scripture, and most often it has to do with God's activity. Let us start out this new year meditating on the following verses from Scripture:

Psalm 40.3 – "He put a new song in my mouth a song of praise to our God."

Isaiah 43.19 – "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 65.17 – "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth ... "

Lamentations 3.22-23 – "The steadfast love of

the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."

Ezekiel 36.26 – "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

John 13.34 – "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

1 Corinthians 11.25 – "In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

2 Corinthians 5.17 – "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Ephesians 2.15-16 – "He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it."

1 Peter 1.3 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ..."

Revelation 21.5 – "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"

As we enter into 2021 with all of its uncertainties, let us pay attention to the ways God is doing a new thing in your life and in the life of our church. When all else is uncertain, one thing is for certain: God's love for you in Christ Jesus our Lord. And this love always has the power to put a new song in our mouth, to give us a new heart and a new spirit, to give us new birth, and make all things new.

Work for Justice and Peace

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

“So that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.” In these baptismal promises we lay out our hopes for what discipleship looks like, in response to the Good News that we have already been saved by Jesus Christ. These are our callings as people of faith.

If you, like me, are looking at the recent events of our world and wondering what to do about it, remember these promises. Remember that we have committed ourselves to trusting God, to knowing that even if the worst should happen, God’s promise of resurrection still holds fast. Remember that we don’t just say things, we act out the love of Jesus for our neighbors, being the manifestation of the body of Christ. Remember that we care for others rather than tear them down. Remember that we seek God’s justice and peace, caring for the vulnerable and oppressed.

God has work for us to do as people of faith, especially in times where the world is chaotic. As a disciple of Christ, as someone filled with the strength of the Holy Spirit, let’s continue to lift up these promises for one another. God is already at work, and is calling us into it.

40 Days of Giving with ELCA World Hunger - Lenten Resources

Over the last year, as the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed for the time when we “will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes” (Revelation 7:16-17).

Thank you for all you are doing in your congregation and community to continue God’s work and to share the grace and love of Christ. We invite you to continue your work by connecting your congregation to the church’s global work to end hunger and poverty during ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving, which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17

To prepare, visit ELCA.org/40Days and download or order resources today.

Your leadership is crucial to our work together. Thank you for partnering with ELCA World Hunger during this important season in the church year. If our team can support you in any way, don’t hesitate to reach out to us at hunger@elca.org.

2021 ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarships:

The Fund for Leaders, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), provides scholarships for future ELCA pastors and deacons who attend ELCA seminaries. In 2021, the Fund for Leaders will once again be offering scholarships to seminary students — and we need your help to spread the word!

The Fund for Leaders has an open application process that allows all eligible candidates to apply online directly to Fund for Leaders to be considered for a full-tuition scholarship. These scholarships will cover the full cost of seminary tuition for the duration of coursework. Eligible candidates must have an offer of admission from one or more ELCA seminaries, be planning to enroll full time in fall 2021 and be in good standing in the ELCA candidacy process. Recipients of Fund for Leaders scholarships may apply their full-tuition scholarship to any ELCA seminary that has offered them admission.

The application period will be open from November 2020 to February 2021. If you know of promising and gifted people discerning a call to rostered ministry in the ELCA, please forward this email to them and encourage them to visit ELCA.org/FundForLeaders today to learn more. Check our website for specific dates and eligibility criteria.

By spreading the word, you will help ensure that future church leaders will be able to serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads. Thank you!

Noisy Offering-The Noisy Offering from January to March will go to the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House provides shelter, food, and needed life services to those in need in our community.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Book Discussion-We are currently reading *The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland*. The book discussion is held over Zoom at noon every Wednesday. When we finish this book (around March) we will be reading *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*. If you

are interested in joining the book discussion let Pastor Amy know and she will send you the information. A summary of both books is below.

The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland-When 38 jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11, the population of this small town on Newfoundland Island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000. The citizens of Gander met the stranded passengers with an overwhelming display of friendship and goodwill.

Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion-Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into a church, received communion, and found herself transformed—embracing a faith she'd once scorned. Miles didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behavior or piety; her faith centered on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries, piled on the church's altar to be given away.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

235 North Prairie Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57104

(605) 338-1672 - alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com

www.augustanasiouxfalls.com

Pastor Amy Martinell - 605-338-1672

Office hours: Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

pastor@augustanasiouxfalls.com

Office Manager Gloria Davis - alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com

Music Director - Diane Larsen

All who contribute articles to the newsletter please email them **copy ready** to alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com by February 15h.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

235 N Prairie Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57104