

September 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran

Good News from Augustana Lutheran Church



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Courage.

We need a jolt of courage in various moments of our lives, probably in moments of each day. Courage is a gift given to us by God, and through communities and individuals.

There's a prayer titled the "Prayer of Good Courage", which has been used at retreat centers, campus ministries,

congregations, and in many other settings. I first heard it while visiting Holden Village, which is a Lutheran/spiritual retreat center in the Cascade Mountain Range of Washington state.

Here is the prayer:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Often it is used to send people out. Holden Village is a retreat center at which most people only stay for one week. But last month we used it for move-in day worship service at Augustana University Campus Ministry as first-year students and families gathered to begin their collegiate academic careers. Those students and families were plunged into activities and realities which are new and different. We take plunges, too: Different phases of the life cycle, making tough decisions, experiencing change, and other new realities.

As the giver of faith and courage, God gives us the support we need to gather in new ways and to be sent in new ways, too.

Fall is a time of new starts, including in congregations like our's. We prepare for the annual block party/fiesta and the fall bazaar. May we have courage to invite, welcome, and care for those who gather. And, may we have the courage to be sent out in order to meet people where they're at, sharing God's love. May God give us the courage.

In Christ,

Interim Pastor Jon

a word from **The Church Council**

The Augustana church council continues to meet monthly to plan events and discuss the future. We've created a Building Task Force to focus on the various and increasing needs of our building, and each month we discuss our response to the ongoing pandemic.

In August we spent most of our time discussing and planning the congregational meeting held on Sunday, August 15. Nearly 30 members and friends of the congregation attended the meeting, where we held devotions, discussed trends in the congregation and neighborhood and discussed our hopes and fears regarding the future of the church.

For those who weren't there, here is the information we discussed:

Church attendance: COVID has had a major impact on our congregation. Between 2013-2019, Augustana had relatively steady weekly attendance of between 50-60 people per week. In 2020 our average in-person attendance was 22, while over 100 people viewed weekly videos and other online content.

Giving: Giving to the congregation has declined steadily, but also decreased sharply in 2020 and has decreased again in 2021.

Neighborhood trends: This part of Sioux Falls is changing rapidly. According to demographic information provided by the ELCA, 14% of the households in the neighborhood receive food stamps, 19% do not speak English at home, and 22% include at least one person with a disability. 40% spend more than one-third of their income on rent, meaning they are at risk of not being able to meet basic expenses. 65% of the neighborhood is White, and there are significant Latino, Black, Native American and Asian communities. The majority are renters, and this group includes both families and single adults.

The call committee then led small group discussions, and the information gathered from them has been given to the call committee as they begin their work. Pastor Jon has also had discussions with a few people who were not able to attend and wanted to share their perspective.

Thanks to Pastor Jon and to call committee and council members for their help with this meeting. I would be glad to discuss any of this with you if you have questions, and have included my email address below. Please keep our congregation and its leaders in your prayers as we discern our future.

Anna Amundson

anna.amundson@gmail.com

What's Happening

See what's happening this month!

Noisy Offering-The Noisy Offering through September 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-The book group will take a few weeks off, but plan to resume on September 22 at 12:00 pm over zoom. A new title has not yet been selected. Watch for further details.

Thank You

This month we recognize the following for sharing their gifts:

- ◆ Thank You to all who helped with the Rummage Sale,
Dave & Teresa Stellingwerf, Steve & Crystal Bartling, Dean & Wanda Frederick, Amber Stellingwerf,
Anna Amundson, Cindy Lappegard, Lauriann Martinez & Jim Sanden.
- ◆ A Special Thank You to Linda Sanden for all her hard work organizing the Rummage Sale
- ◆ Thank You to everyone who donated items for the rummage sale.
- ◆ Thank You to Dave Stellingwerf for shampooing the carpets.

Upcoming Events

FIESTA/BLOCK PARTY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

11:30 AM - 2 PM

Come join the fun!! Food, Games, Music, & Fellowship!!!

It's that time of year again. Fall is here and that means: Block Party/Fiesta!

Gather on Sunday, September 19th for the annual Block Party/Fiesta hosted by Augustana Lutheran Church and Pueblo de Dios. A fun, joint worship service with both congregations at 10:00am. Then food will be served from 11:30am-2:00pm, with kids' games available during the same time. Help us continue the wonderful tradition of gathering together, feeding people, and reaching out to our neighborhood! All events will take place outdoors, weather permitting.

Bazaar & Vendor Fair

Saturday, October 30, 2021

Consider helping at the Church Bazaar & Vendor Fair.

We are in need of people to help make the Lefse on September 25 & Rosettes on October 23.

There are sign ups in the entry for ingredients to make the Lefse & Rosettes. Also to supply Baked Goods for the Bake Sale. We will also need pies to sell,

Also sign up to help on October 30, 2021.

If you know of a vendor who would like to sell at the Bazaar let them know about it.

If you have any questions or want to sign up to help

Contact Amber Stellingwerf at 605-553-8888



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •



YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH BY BUYING AND USING HYVEE CARDS to do your grocery shopping. Gift cards can be purchased on Sunday mornings, either before or after worship or call **Linda Sanden at 413-8984 or email her at sanden@sio.midco.net to make arrangements.** You can purchase cards in \$25, \$50, \$100. **Five percent of what you spend**



comes back to the church. Since the beginning of this program **\$24,025** 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.

With Deepest Sympathy

Don Swain passed away on July 31, 2021 at the age of 87.

Funeral Service was held on Wednesday August 4th at Miller Funeral Home.

To Pastor Jon & family. Pastor Jon's cousin Jon Anderson passed away recently

His funeral was held on August 27 in Renton, WA



9/2 Cassandra Pope	9/13 Alan Stellingwerf
9/3 Laurie Kjergaard	9/13 Marilyn Alvine
9/3 Rhonda Loe	9/14 Jacelyn Doese
9/4 Lorraine Mears	9/16 Cami Kuchta
9/5 Natalie Bartling	9/17 Jon Herman
9/6 Lori Braa	9/18 Steve Bart;ing
9/9 Andy Pedersen	9/20 Jaxier Maldonado-Lemme
9/13 Shirley Bren	9/22 Lena Stellingwerf
9/13 Eva Nelson	9/25 Rose Grant



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30-7:00pm Pueblo de Dios Bible Study	2	3	4
5 10:00am - Worship Online Worship on Facebook & ALC Website 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	6 6:30pm ALC Church Council	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:00am - Worship Online Worship on Facebook & ALC Website 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	13	14	15 5:30-7:00pm Pueblo de Dios Bible Study	16\ 6:00pm - Food-to-You (Drive-Up)	17 4:30pm Rehearsal for Jacob Tesch Wedding	18 4:30pm Jacob Tesch Wedding
19 10:00am - Outside Augustana & Pueblo de Dios Worship with Online Worship on Facebook & ALC Website Fiesta/Block Party 11:30 am - 2 pm	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	23 4:30 pm Bethany Lutheran Board Meeting	24 Lefse-- Cook & Rice Potatoes 9AM	25 Make Lefse 9 AM
26\ 10:00am - Worship Online Worship on Facebook & ALC Website 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	27	28	29 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 5:30-7:00pm Pueblo de Dios Bible Study	30		



Ongoing Servant Ministry Projects @ ALC

FOOD-TO-YOU -

On Thursday, September 16 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. The food for September is Hearty Soup. October will be Cereal (any kind). Toilet Paper and Hygiene Items are Always Needed.



Women's Ministry

Augustana Lutheran Church Women ALCW and QUILTERS

- ◆ **Quilting** - 9:00 am every Tuesday (They are not meeting during the summer).
- ◆ **The ALCW is not meeting at this time.**



Shower Your Church with Blessings!!

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

**White and Colored Copy Paper,
Postage (regular, extra ounce, postcard -
we have been going through a lot of
postage.**

Toilet Paper

Your gifts make a big difference!

JULY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

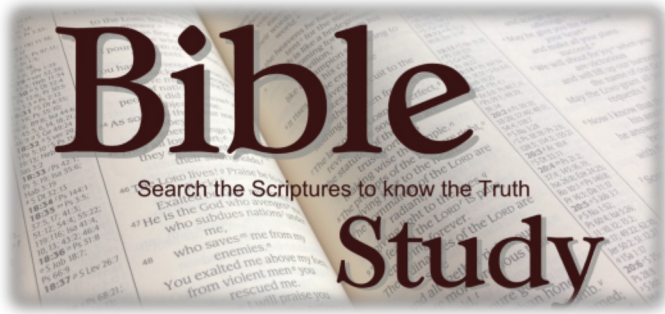
RECEIPTS

Offerings for Operating Fund	\$ 4,430.00
Offerings for Building Fund	\$ 450.00
World Hunger appeal	\$ 25.00
Noisy Offering (<i>designated for Dudley House</i>)	\$ 92.18
Congregational Fund Raising (<i>Hy-Vee cards</i>)	\$ 50.00
Use of Facility	\$ 20.00
Mission Partners (<i>Memorial Lutheran</i>)	\$ 100.00
Pueblo de Dios	\$ 350.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 5,517.18

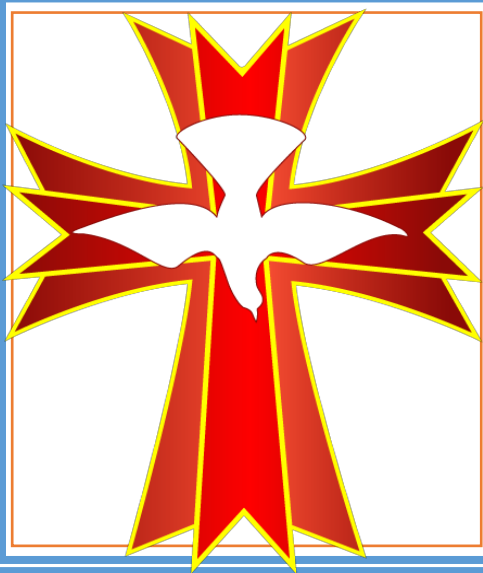
EXPENSES PAID

ELCA Missions	\$ 100.00
Website (<i>domain & hosting</i>) & Zoom subscription	\$ 39.56
Utilities & Phone	\$ 1,333.01
Insurance	\$ 759.83
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 514.39
Staff Support	\$ 4,619.37
Mortgage Payment	\$ 2,000.00
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	\$ 30.91
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,397.07

The offerings listed for July are a bit skewed because two July deposits were not made until August 1, so aren't reflected in the report above.



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR September



September 5, 2021
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:24-37
Isaiah 35:4-7a

September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 8:27-38
Isaiah 50:4-9a

September 19, 2021
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 9:30-37
Jeremiah 11:18-20

September 26, 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 9:38-50
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29





From the Bishop's Desk

Friends in Christ, How does the old saying go? Time flies when you are having fun! I hope you are enjoying your summer. Part of the end of summer is to look forward to starting Fall activities. As congregations, we usually plan for Rally Sunday, Fall dinners and next year's budget. Before you dive deep into budget planning, I would like to extend an invitation to you as a leader in the church.

Please join your synod staff for a zoom evening of all things stewardship, budgets, and mission planning. We had a leadership hour in the winter and over 100 leaders attended, surveys showed that "fun was had by all". So, we are doing it again, showing up in your world via a Zoom leadership hour on Tuesday, September 7 from 7 PM CT to 8 PM CT. Sign-up at sdsynod.org. This free event is meant to accompany your congregation on preparing for ministry in 2022. And as a bonus, please check out our revitalization resources on the synod website, which will help you to steward ministry post-pandemic. I hope to see you on Zoom!

Journeying together in Christ,

Bishop Constanze

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Office hours :Wednesday 9:00m-3:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings

By appointment at other times

Office Manager Cindy Lappegard - alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com

Music Director - Diane Larsen

All who contribute articles to the newsletter please email them **copy ready** to alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com no later than:

8:00 am - Tuesday, September 21st

- Emailing/Mailing/Distribution will be the week of September 27



Pueblo de Dios

235 North Prairie Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Pastor Maria Cabello-Salomon

605-339-8571 or 605-370-3604

acostamaria985@gmail.com or pueblodedios07@yahoo.com

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