

January 2023

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran

**AUGUSTANA**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIoux FALLS, SD

# Good News from Augustana Lutheran Church

**JANUARY**

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## MOMENTS OF GRATITUDE: BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

by Pastor John Paulson

**Happy birthday, Augsutana!** It was just over 140 years ago, on Dec. 28, 1882, when, according to church records, the congregation that would eventually become Augustana Lutheran Church made its first step toward organization with sixteen members. We will celebrate that first step when we gather to worship at **10:00 a.m., Sunday Jan. 15, with Bishop Constanze Hagmaier** preaching. I am grateful to her for accepting our invitation!

I am grateful to those sixteen original members, who had the courage and the faith to birth a congregation seven years before this state was born! Back then the church was called the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members worshiped only in Swedish, the language most commonly used in their homes.

I am grateful, too, for Pastor Maria and the people of Pueblo de Dios, who share this building with us, worshiping in both Spanish and English. They will join us for the anniversary celebration on Jan. 15. Listening to people go through the line during the Food to You distribution, one can hear other languages spoken as well. They remind me that this church began as an immigrant church, and I am grateful that, through the work of Pastor Maria and Pueblo de Dios, we can continue to help immigrants struggling to

make a better way for their families in a new country.

I am grateful that God has called me to this place, and I am grateful for the many talents I have discovered within this congregation in the six months I have been here—talents that aid and expand God’s mission and ministry. There are musicians and worship leaders, bakers and cooks, people who work with their hands, with words, and with numbers.

There are current and former professionals of all kinds, and people who are retired or unemployed. There are children who are still in school and older folks who are still children at heart. No doubt you could name even more talents and types among this congregation.

It was my reflecting on these many talents and the many languages spoken within these walls over the years that inspired the choice of a hymn and the theme for Augustana’s anniversary celebration, “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ.” My hope is that this hymn will become a rallying cry for God’s people who are part of Augustana Lutheran Church, not only in this 140th year of its existence, but for years to come.

**TOUR OF FORMER PARSONAGE AVAILABLE AFTER  
WORSHIP JAN. 15**

Perry Mansion, located just two doors down from Augustana at Prairie Avenue and 8th Street, served as the church parsonage from 1955 through 1972. It will be open for tours from noon until 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 15, courtesy of Matt and Julie Luke of Luke Properties. The company is renovating the building for “tours, experience rentals and overnight stays.”



*a word from* **The Church Council**

In December, the Augustana council met via zoom. Some council members are veterans of zoom council meetings from the pandemic, but this time it was because of freezing rain. We have a very busy January ahead of us. We discussed plans for the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a draft of the 2023 budget, which will be discussed at our annual meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and other plans for the coming year. In 2023, we are looking forward to reviewing and renewing our Partnership Agreement with Pueblo de Dios and sharing events and services with them. We also hope to re-start the Interfaith Iftar this year.

If you are able, please plan to be at the anniversary celebration and the annual meeting, two important events in the life of our congregation. Zoom attendance at the annual meeting is also possible; please be in touch with the church office to discuss this option.

Anna Amundson  
Church Council President

**Augustana's Annual Meeting**  
**Sun. Jan. 22**  
**After Service**



**NOVEMBER FINANCIAL DATA**

**RECEIPTS**

Offerings for General Fund	\$ 11,036.50
Offerings for Building Fund	\$ 3,443.00
Noisy Offering ( <i>designated for Church on the Street</i> )	\$ 29.58
Non-member gift ( <i>undesigned</i> )	\$ 100.00
Gifts for Thanksgiving meal	\$ 850.00
Congregational Fundraising	\$ 80.00
World Hunger Appeal	\$ 25.00
Coffee Fellowship	\$ 34.50
Mission Partners ( <i>Memorial Lutheran</i> )	\$ 100.00
Pueblo de Dios	\$ 350.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 16,048.58</b>

**EXPENSES PAID**

ELCA Missions	\$ 300.00
World Hunger	\$ 45.00
Evangelical Outreach ( <i>Thx meal, block party, &amp; WWW</i> )	\$ 2,026.33
Devotional Books	\$ 16.51
LOGOS expenses ( <i>food &amp; stipends</i> )	\$ 1,177.76
Utilities, phone & internet	\$ 447.28
Insurance ( <i>work comp. quarterly pmt</i> )	\$ 103.25
Equipment, maintenace & repair	\$ 442.08
Mortgage Payment	\$ 2,500.00
Staff Support	\$ 7,445.16
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	\$ 50.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 14,553.81</b>

**Net gain in November      \$1,494.77**

**Balance Remain Church Mortgage: \$11,725**

**the profit to date from HyVee card sales: \$24,625**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**ALC MEMBERS!**

**WE WILL GATHER TOGETHER SUNDAY, JANUARY 22RD!**

**(Directly after ALC Worship)**

Pot Luck, Fellowship and Business items

Including 2023 Budget, reviewing the Partnership Agreement with Pueblo de Dios,

Pastors Report ***and so much more!***



## January 2023 Newsletter Inserts

### From the Bishop's Desk

New Year's Greetings South Dakota Synod!

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! - The majority of you are preparing for your annual meeting at which you will elect new leaders to serve on the council and in other capacities representing your congregation in the community you are planted in. Allow me to say a thank you to those who have concluded their service and a welcome to those who will begin their service. As the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod I am grateful for your willingness to serve in times such as these.

The synod's mission statement is: journeying together in Christ and is based on Luke's narrative of the walk to Emmaus after the resurrection. Jesus joins two disciples on the road as they journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus to clear their heads from everything they had seen and heard these past few days. Jesus joins them on the way, but their preoccupied minds and hearts don't permit them to recognize Jesus. It isn't until Jesus joins them at the supper table, where he breaks the bread that their eyes and hearts are finally receptive to who has been with them all along. And despite the darkness and possible danger, despite being hungry after a day's journey and despite their tired and weary bodies they hurry back to Jerusalem to share the good news that they have seen the Lord.

As you begin your service as a council member I hope you will amidst the weary works of your day and sometimes even in the church discover the risen Christ continues to show up at your council meetings to reveal who you are and who we are as the living and breathing body of Christ. Your work may include mundane decisions such as paying the bills and choosing curriculum, finding soloists and ushers, but never underestimate the power of Christ in your midst. He may just have been journeying alongside you, without you recognizing him. I pray that you are called to carry out your given task with an open heart, mind and spirit only to discover that Christ has been a part of the church at large and your community in particular long before you.

I also invite you to join the synod staff for an educational event on Zoom titled: "You have been elected to council, now what?" We have done these workshops for a few years now and the number of people participating is growing every year. Together we will learn about what it means to serve on the council, that your constitution is not a weapon, but your missional document, how to utilize the resources the synod has to accompany your congregation, how to create a spirit of generosity and much more. Please register through the registration link in the weekly synod e-news. The event is free and open to all who wish to attend. If you do not yet subscribe to the e-news, please follow this link or insert into your browser: [sdsynod.org/subscribe](https://sdsynod.org/subscribe).

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the SD Synod

## Faithful Imagination

Beloved partners in Christ,

As I watch my three young children grow, I am awestruck by their imagination and curiosity about God, the world, and their lives. Not as a pastor, but as a parent it is my calling to help them hear the Good News of Jesus, and to help them trust in God's promises.

It's a joy to watch them learn the Lord's Prayer, and say their evening prayers together. But being four and six years old, the oldest like to find ways to make it fun. They ask to pray "dinosaur style," punctuating each line with a "RAWRRRR." Or we might whisper pray, barely giving any breath as we talk with God. Even though this is not how I might choose to pray, for them it is a meaningful and engaging way to grow in relationship with God.

I wonder what our congregations might look like if we give ourselves permission to explore meaningful ways to share our faith with one another, and to grow in relationship with God - even when it might be surprising. In our ministries we are called to share the Good News of Jesus who died and lives again for us, and to go out into the world to love and serve our neighbors. But lately we are finding the ability to do that work by imagining new ways of doing it, or learning how others are doing the work differently than we might.

The Holy Spirit is up to something in our churches and in our lives. As we continue to share our faith with others, we will be surprised and delighted to see how we grow closer to God. The Gospel promise of Jesus Christ will remain central, but what we surround that with will change as the world does.

May God bless you with creativity and new ways of living together as God's people. Know that God is with us through all things, that the Holy Spirit is pouring blessings into you, and that Jesus will always love you.

Rev Jonathan Steiner

Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship & Outreach

## Interested in Coaching?

Coaching is cropping up consistently across the ELCA (alliteration alert)! Synods are attaching and prioritizing coaching support to initiatives and outreach programs as a way to support leaders—lay and rostered alike—in their ministry. Some of these ministries include the Congregations Lead Initiative (<https://elca.org/CongregationsLead>), ELCA World Hunger (<https://www.elca.org/resources/elca-world-hunger>), coaching first call pastors, a coaching partnership with Luther Seminary's Faith+Lead (<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/>), and many others!

The ELCA has a national coaching director in Jill Beverlin, whose position recently changed to full-time (<https://www.elcacoaching.org/pages/intro-to-coaching>). Jill has two support staff members, and more and more coaching coordinators (like me! <https://sdsynod.org/ministries/coach-network/>) are being raised up across the 65 synods. (Cont. p. 6)



The beauty of coaching is that it offers a safe and brave space for people to name current hopes and struggles, set goals, and attach timelines and accountability to those goals. Coaching is a relationship of encouraging and equipping built on the pillars of active listening and powerful, open-ended questioning.

Bishop Constanze, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, and DEM Pastor Jonathan Steiner are trained in coaching and use it daily in their ministries. There is an active SD Synod coaching network that is eager to support leaders across the synod.

If you are curious about what a coaching space might look like for you, reach out! (<https://www.elcacoaching.org/pages/what-is-coaching>)

At the very least, you will learn about something new, and at the very best, you just might find a life-changing opportunity!

Jamie Graham Duprey Author, Coach Coachduprey.com, (406)930-2839

If you are a rostered minister, or seminarian and you are wanting to try out coaching, please contact Crystal McCormick ([cmccormick@sdsynod.org](mailto:cmccormick@sdsynod.org)) in the Synod office, and ask for the “Lifelong Academy Grant Application Form.” Each applicant can receive up to \$300 to cover the cost of your first few coaching sessions. Prayerfully consider this opportunity.

There are also opportunities for congregational coaching as well, including grief coaching. Congregations can also apply for the “Lifelong Academy Grant Application.”

Rev Renee Splichal Larson

Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment

## **The Beginning of Something New**

It's that time of year again – lots of forms with lots of numbers. 1040's and 1099's, W-2s, Schedule A and Schedule C. Time with a calculator and a CPA or TurboTax and shivering Uncle Sams waving to oncoming traffic during rush hour.

It's also a time of review and reflection. How did I use my resources? How did I share from my abundance? How did my decisions reflect my faith? How did they reflect Jesus? It's all there in the receipts and check registers and bank statements. The same happens in congregations – evaluation of priorities and programs, adoption of a new budget, conversations about how to do more, or be more, or even save more when things look bleak.

Here are some words to consider as you think about what's in store for 2023. You may have heard them before, but they still seem a good challenge for each of us as we make plans for something new in the coming year:

“This is about generosity, not about fundraising. Not budgets or campaign goals. If that's all we're going to achieve, we will have missed something along the way. We believe that following Jesus means learning how to follow him in every area of our lives, including how we handle our money.

“As followers of Christ, our goal in life is not gaining power, possession or prestige for ourselves. We exist to fulfill the Great Commission until Christ's return. When the church acts with generosity to serve others, it is a clear picture of Christ, who at the cross generously gave his life and all he had so that we might have life forever.” (Willard & Sheppard, 2012; pp. 165-166)

Kathy McHenry,  
Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota  
[www.lpgsd.org](http://www.lpgsd.org), 605-274-5030



**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 denominations. **Five percent of what you spend comes back to the church.** Since the beginning of this program **\$24,625.** 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.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## *Happy Birthday to ALL January Babies!*

- 3—Brodie McLain      4-Becca Herman      11-Mearl Frederick
- 12-Jennifer Soule      20-Janet Arnold      23-Gray Mears
- 27-Kay Fenstermarker      28-Rev. John Paulson      30-Bobbie Jo Horsted

### SCRIPTURE READING FOR JANUARY

Sunday Jan 8 – Baptism of Our Lord First Sunday after Epiphany

Readings Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday Jan 15 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

Readings Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 (8) 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday Jan 22 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Readings Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1) 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday Jan 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Readings Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 (1) 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

More Online!

[www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/Lectionary/YearA](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/Lectionary/YearA)

YEAR A 2023 – Time After Epiphany This Church Year Calendar, Propers and Daily Lectionary uses the Revised Common Lectionary as it appears in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006).

Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>10am - Worship</b> <b>w/communion</b> Online Worship on ALC Facebook	2	3	4	<b>5</b>  <b>6:00</b> <b>Church</b> <b>Council</b>	6	7
<b>8</b> <b>10:00am - Worship</b> Online Worship on ALC Facebook  <b>12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios</b> Worship	9	10	<b>11</b>  LOGOS 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	12	<b>13</b> <b>Annual</b> <b>Report</b> <b>Deadline</b>	14
<b>15 Happy Birthday</b> <b>Augustana!</b> <b>10am - Joint w/Pueblo de</b> <b>Dios</b> Worship <b>w/communion</b> Online Worship on ALC Facebook <b>After service—Reception</b> <b>with the Bishop</b>	16	17	<b>18</b>  12:00 PM Book Group on Zoom  LOGOS 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>19</b>  6:00 - 7:00 pm - Food-to You	<b>20</b>  <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Deadline</b>	21
<b>22</b> <b>10:00am - Worship</b> Online Worship on ALC Facebook <b>After Service-</b> <b>Annual Meeting!</b>  <b>12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios</b> Worship	23	24	<b>25</b>  12:00 PM Book Group on Zoom  LOGOS 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	26	27	28
<b>29</b> <b>10:00am - Worship w/</b> <b>communion</b> Online Worship on ALC Facebook  <b>12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios</b> Worship	30	31				





## Ongoing Servant Ministry Projects @ ALC

### FOOD-TO-YOU -

**3rd Thursday of the month, starting at 6 p.m. Food-To-You will be doing distribution of food inside the church. We will not be providing a meal at this time. January is Mac-n-Chesse & Toilet Paper.**



**Noisy Offering-**The Noisy Offering is going to Church on the Street.

Toilet paper, laundry detergent, diapers, and feminine hygiene products are needed for Necessities for Neighbors. Hygiene kits will also be included. Distribution is the 1st Sunday of the month at Peace Lutheran Church. Items can be put in the grocery cart upstairs.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ... AGAIN

### ALC MEMBERS!

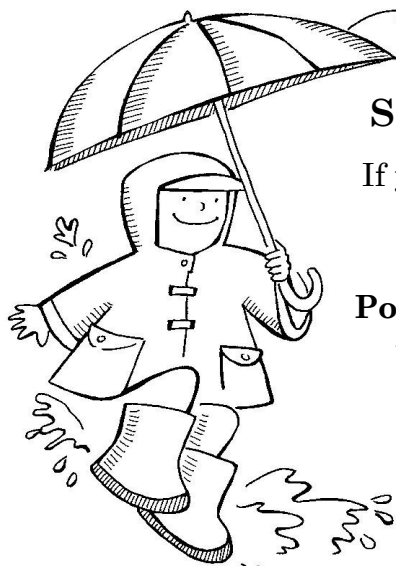
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### **Shower Your Church with Blessings!!**

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!*

Augustana Lutheran Church  
235 N Prairie Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**  
**235 North Prairie Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

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