

*December 2023*

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran



SIoux FALLS, SD

## **GOOD NEWS FROM AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

What's **INSIDE** this issue . . .

- 1: What's Happening
- 2 : Greetings from Pastor John; Noisy Offering
- 3: Financial report; Council Minutes
- 5: New Secretary; Giving Tree
6. Holiday Goodies; Christmas Donations; Christmas Luncheon
7. Calendar

**ENJOY AUGUSTANA'S ADVENT FAIR!**

**Sunday, Dec. 3 after worship**



Come join the fun!

Singing, storytelling, crafts, games, and treats!

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**AT AUGUSTANA**

**With Carols, Candles and**

**Holy Communion**



## WAITING, WATCHING, LISTENING WITH HOPE

The season of Advent is a season of **waiting**. In the same way ancient Israel waiting for a Savior-King to deliver them from the darkness of foreign oppression, Christians from the First Century on have been waiting for the return of that same Savior-King, Jesus, to fulfill God's promise of everlasting justice and peace on earth.

In the meantime, we wait to celebrate Jesus' birth: with worship and singing, yes, along with all the other cultural and commercial accoutrements gathered throughout the years. For some the waiting is joyous, for others it brings loneliness and sorrow, a product, perhaps of memories of Christmases past, current struggles, and/or relationships lost or strained.

But the season of Advent is also a season of **hope**, signified by the color blue in worship. This is not merely wishful thinking but a confident hope reinforced by faith and trust that, because God's kept his promise of a Savior in Jesus, God will likewise continue to keep God's eternal promise of deliverance from death, sorrow and pain:



“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away” (Revelation 21:3-4).

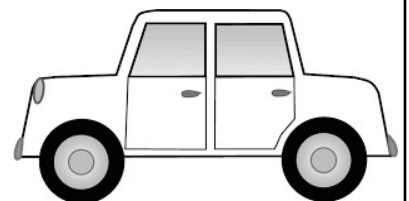
I invite you, during this season of Advent, to listen and watch, as you wait, for signs of God's hopeful and loving presence in our world: in the people you meet, the carols sung and heard, God's word read and preached, in nature observed. I invite you also listen and watch for ways to be *be* such a sign of God's hopeful and loving presence to another who might need one, in whatever way God might show you, that both of you may experience the joy of God's peace.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all,

Pastor John

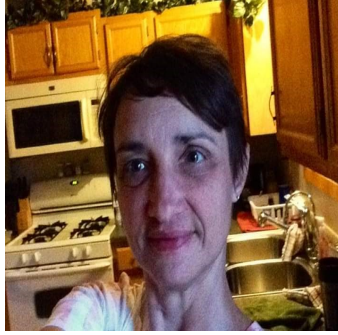
### NOISY OFFERINGS

We are pleased to announce that *SHIFT GARAGE* will be offering low cost car repair. If your car has a little cough or sputter....head on over to *SHIFT GARAGE* , located at 110 S. Kiwanis , and get it all fixed up !! Our greatest appreciation to *SHIFT Garage* for offering this service.



## Let us welcome our new Church Secretary !

Teresa Jackson is our new Church secretary. She came to us on November 7, 2023. We are very excited To have her join our little church community. A few tidbits about Teresa, she has a dachshund, named Beano. She has 3 grown daughters, Lindsey, Sommer, and Ashley and she has 6 grandchildren, 2 from each daughter!! Teresa is very excited to be a new part of Augustana Lutheran Church.



### **AUGUSTANA'S GIVING TREE TO BENEFIT PUEBLO DE DIOS AND LATINX IMMIGRANTS**

This year's Giving Tree at Augustana will give people a chance to provide some items for members of Pueblo de Dios and other immigrants who do not have sufficient income to purchase their own. At the November Church and Community Forum, Pastor Maria explained that immigrants coming to this country must wait six to nine months before they are able to work legally. This leaves them with little or no money for food, housing, clothing or personal items.

Enter the Giving Tree, which will be set up in the narthex/gathering space upstairs at the church. Tags on the tree will be printed to reflect basic food, clothing or personal items. People can take one or more tags, purchase or provide those items (new or gently used, depending on the items), and return them Augustana by Sunday, Dec. 19.

### **Augustana and Pueblo de Dios Joint Worship Dec. 17 at 10:00 am**



**LOGOS students will sing  
songs of Christmas!**

Holiday goodies will be distributed to the home bound on Sunday, December 17. We need BOTH donations and drivers. Thank you in advance. Please bring your donation to the church on Saturday, December 16th between, 1:00-3:00, or by 9:30 am on Sunday, December 17 so the trays can be assembled and ready for delivery that same day.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Christmas cookies
- Snack crackers
- Mixed and regular nuts
- Tangerines, oranges, and apples
- Cheese of various types
- Granola bars, fruit bars, and fruit snacks
- Jerky, and last but NOT least.....
- CANDY

Sign-up sheets for drivers and donations will be in the church narthex.

*THANK YOU*

## AUGUSTANA CHRISTMAS LIST

(These items may sound a bit boring, like the proverbial gift of underwear, but they are all necessary items for the church. Next year we hope to get more imaginative.)

Paper towels, 12-pack or more

Bathroom tissue, 12-pack or more

Tall kitchen trash bags (13 gal), 40 count or more

30-gal black trash bags, 40 count or more

Utility bill, one month: \$1200

Phone/Internet bill, one month: \$125

December supply pastor: \$175

Monthly ministry expense per regular worshiper: \$502.33

Thank you !!



## CHRISTMAS CAROL LUNCHEON

East Side Lutheran Church

1300 E. 10th Street

Saturday, December 9, 2023

12:00 NOON

Chicken Noodle Casserole

Dozens of Salads

Peppermint Ice Cream

Food

Music

Fellowship

Freewill Offering

Also selling inspirational towels, greeting cards, and cutlery.

## OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

### RECEIPTS

Offerings for Operating Fund	\$ 9,775.32
Offerings for Building Maintenance	\$ 485.00
Noisy Offering (for SHIFT Garage)	\$ 26.32
Gift for Thxgiving Meal from Avera Health	\$ 750.00
Coffee Fellowship	\$ 54.00
Mission Partner: Memorial Lutheran-Pierre	\$ 100.00
Pueblo de Dios	\$ 350.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 11,540.64</b>

### EXPENSES

Utilities / Phone / Internet	\$ 230.95
Insurance (quarterly payment)	\$ 1,894.25
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 380.78
Staff Support	\$ 8,343.24
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	\$ 89.06
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES PAID</b>	<b>\$ 10,938.28</b>

Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 5, 2023

#### CALL TO ORDER at 5:55

by President Jim Sanden. Present were Pastor John Paulson, Dave Stellingwerf, Linda Sanden, Jim Sanden, Jennifer Soule, Crystal Bartling, and Terry Engebretson.

#### DEVOTIONS

Pastor John read from Luke 10, "Peace be to this house." We commented on what keeps us in this house of God.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jennifer motioned to approve and Crystal seconded. Motion approved.

#### MINUTES

Linda motioned and Jennifer seconded to approve the Council meeting minutes from October meeting. Motion carried.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS/TREASURER'S REPORT

Linda went over the month's finances. Our outstanding balance of \$3781.91 is on the Wells Fargo credit card, with all else relatively current. She also briefed us on the YTD Totals. She will present a 2024 proposed budget at our next meeting.

#### MISSION AREAS

Mission in Community

ALC Worship

Diane has played for several special services and we thank her!

December 24 Service-Terry motioned that ALC hold Christmas Eve worship at 4:00 pm. Jennifer seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Pueblo de Dios

Michael Houk has resigned from the council due to illness.

The Joint Executive Committee will meet December 10.

The van will go in for repairs next week.

Offering envelopes need to be ordered and the list for sending needs narrowing.

Pueblo de Dios and ALC will conduct a clothing drive for people new to this area as our Advent/Christmas Project.

Mission through Discipleship

### **Christian Education and Formation**

The books to give for baptismal anniversaries have arrived. A book is given for the first anniversary and a Bible for the second year, using Thrivent cards. Fred Moffett bought wood for 4 Faith Chests and he continues to create chests.

There will be an Advent Fair after worship on December 3.

### **Stewardship**

The annual commitment letter and card will go out November 6.

Mission Through Service and Outreach

Charis Ministries/Food to You Oct.19

TP Drive was successful.

Peanut Butter is the monthly need for Charis/Food to You.

Dave found cups and plates in the church that can be used for the dinner.

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Mission Management

### **Staff Management**

Teresa Jackson is our new secretary. She and Linda cleaned the office.

### **Property Management**

Crystal will take photos after the stained glass window is installed.

We need an update and estimate from the insurance company regarding the bell tower and ceiling repair. Linda has emailed the company regarding this. The roof, which has a \$5000 deductible, needs evaluating. The next deadline for a grant to repair is January.

Dave will see that the snowblower receives a new shear pin and Terry is checking on someone to remove snow from steps and sidewalks.

## **PASTOR JOHN'S REPORT**

Pastor Dwight Stensgard will substitute for Pastor John on Nov.26 and Dec.31.

Council Retreat is Feb.3 for which we will read 2 books.

Pastor John is on the Cathedral Neighborhood 50th Anniversary Committee.

We are in search of the legal-sized red hard cover book that ALC has used to record baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc.

Pastor John hopes to take Ministry Coaching training. We will revisit this when he becomes certified in this ministry.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

As for the Printer/Copier contract, which includes ink and support, Pastor John and Linda will evaluate to determine which is the better fit for our needs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

As the Annual Meeting is January 28, we will again discuss finding a slate of people for the election of officers, etc.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00.

ALC WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Christmas Eve, December 24 **4:00 PM**.

ANNUAL MEETING: January 28, 2024.

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 11:00 Advent Fair 12:30 Pueblo de Dios Worship	4	5 6:00 p.m. Church council	6 5:30 p.m. LOGOS	7	8	9
<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m. ALC 11:00 Jt. Exec. Cmte. 12:30 Pueblo de Dios Worship	11	12	13 5:30 p.m. LOGOS	14	15	16
<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship w/ Communion 12:30 Pueblo de Dios Worship	18	19	20 5:30 pm LOGOS	21 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food to You	22	23
<b>24</b> <u>NO MORNING</u> <u>WORSHIP</u> 4:30 p.m. Augustana Christmas Service 6:30 Pueblo de Dios Christmas Service 7:30 Pueblo de Dios Christmas Party	25 <b>CHRISTMAS            DAY</b>	26	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> 10:30am Augustana Worship 12:30 pm Pueblo de Dios Worship						

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**Pastor Maria Cabello-Salamon**

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