

*February 2024*

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran

**AUGUSTANA**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH 

SIOUX FALLS, SD

**GOOD NEWS FROM  
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

2. Greetings from Pastor John
3. Church Council / Budget
4. Birthdays
5. Charis Board Letter
6. Calendar



**LENT BEGINS FEB. 14**

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, and we are reminded of the verse from Psalm 51: "Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Worship on Ash Wednesday will be at 6:00 p.m. Midweek worship throughout the rest of Lent will also be Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., using Holden Evening Prayer. Worshipers are invited to dine with the LOGOS students and leaders at 5:30 p.m. Come purify your hearts and be fed by the presence of God and the gathered community.



## TIME TO BE STILL

by Pastor John



“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10).

An Easter-like crowd of thirty-five people turned out for worship on the Sunday of Augustana’s annual meeting! Important discussions were on the agenda, and both members and non-members were invited to participate in those discussions. Chief among the issues were some major building repairs and the shortage of funds to make them or even to keep up with the ongoing needs of ministry. Several ideas were offered, some of which will be researched by the church council and/or the endowment committee and/or myself. In the meantime, I believe God is calling us to take a moment to “be still” and reflect on what God is doing in our midst.

In their book, *When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*, Andrew Root and Blaire Bertrand observe that in response to declining church participation brought on by both the pandemic and changing social values, church leaders have become desperate to find more people and more money through increasingly diverse church programming. That urgency and the energy expended, the authors say, are burning out both pastors and churches. Instead of that, they ask, “What if the answer is to stop and wait on God?” The psalmist, it seems, would agree, saying, on our Creator’s behalf: “Be still and know that I am God.”

I have begun trying that. Each morning before I rise from bed, I listen to God’s word and prayers from an Episcopal Morning Prayer podcast. Tuesday mornings, before going to work, I have started taking time to simply sit and enjoy some Christian music of various kinds. I admit to being a “doer,” and even my kids can attest to how hard it can be for me to just “be still.”

There is an old adage, “Don’t just stand there, do something.” Recently the chaplains with whom I work have started to emphasize the opposite: “Don’t just do something, stand there.” Just *be* with the people who are sick, grieving, and/ or in pain. Especially at those times when there are no words, just to *be* there can be a great comfort.

It can be hard to restrain the compulsion to always do. I know. But, especially where God is concerned, such restraint is needed. The Bible is replete with stories of people who try to “do something” instead of waiting on God, usually with disastrous results. Jesus himself urged his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit before launching into ministry following his ascension into heaven (Acts 1:4). As we enter into the season of Lent this month, I encourage us all to “take a breath” amid the urgency of the moment and wait: *wait* for the Spirit to move, *listen* for the voice of God, and then be ready to *follow* the Spirit’s lead.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS NEW AND RETURNING

One new council member and two returning officers were elected during Augustana's Annual Meeting in January. Frank Alvine was elected to fill a vacant spot on the council. Jim Sanden was re-elected as president and Dave Stellingwerf was re-elected Vice-President. The remaining council members are Crystal Bartling and Jennifer Soule. The current secretary and treasurer are Terry Engebretson and Linda Sande, respectively. Those positions are appointed by the church council, which will meet again on Tuesday Feb. 13. Installation for officers and church council members will take place during worship on Sunday Feb. 4.

## DECEMBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### RECEIPTS

General Fund Offerings	\$	10,818.60	
Building Fund Offerings	\$	530.00	
Noisy Offering	\$	200.00	
Coffee Fellowship	\$	27.00	
Mission Partner ( <i>Memorial Lutheran - Pierre</i> )	\$	100.00	
Pueblo de Dios	\$	350.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,025.60</b>	

### EXPENSES PAID

Evangelical Outreach	\$	57.99	
Devotionals	\$	16.98	
Utilities / Phone / Internet	\$	1,076.12	
Bldg. Insurance ( <i>Quarterly Pmt.</i> )	\$	1,906.25	
Maintenance/Repair	\$	1,002.58	
Staff Support	\$	5,067.67	
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	\$	71.41	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,199.00</b>	

**UNPAID BILLS AT THE END OF 2023**      \$      **10,809.46**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Let's celebrate these February birthdays!!*

Kristopher MacBeath: February 5

Lyla Pedersen: February 9

Sadie Sauby: February 13

Patricia Moffett: February 16

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL !!**





**Charis Ministry Partners**

**Rev. Alex Smith, Secretary  
2024**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9,**

To our generous partners in ministry: THANK YOU for your continued faithfulness as we work together to care for our neighbors in need through Charis Ministry Partners! This past year, we were able to serve hundreds of families each month with critical items not covered by food stamps (Necessities for Neighbors) and boxes of fresh, frozen, and healthy foods (Food To You). These events, hosted by various churches in our community, are a lifeline for many in times of crisis. Thank you for responding to Jesus’ invitation to care for those in need! (Matt. 24:40)

As of January 2024, the Charis Board is working to the best of our abilities to steward resources and provide ongoing care while we search for a new Executive Director. In the meantime, you may contact any the following leadership team for questions related to distribution events:

- Pastor Chris Zuraff, President (Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls)
- Pastor Alex Smith, Secretary (Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls)

Please review the calendars below for upcoming distribution events. Note we are still in need of sponsors for the many dates highlighted in yellow. Sponsors provide 10-15 volunteers for the event, plus a sponsorship gift of \$350.00 for items/food costs. If you are willing to be a sponsor, please contact our leadership team as soon as possible. We need all of our 13 mission partners!

FOOD TO YOU - 2024 CALENDAR				
	1ST THR @ EAST SIDE	2ND THR @ MESSIAH NEW HOPE	3RD THR @ AUGUSTANA LUTH	4TH THR @ ST. JOHN'S
JAN	1/4 East Side Lutheran	1/11 Messiah New Hope	1/18 Wenger Roofing	1/25 Tre Ministries
FEB	2/1 Gloria Dei Lutheran	2/8 Grace Lutheran	2/15 sponsor needed!	2/22 St. John Lutheran
MAR	3/7 East Side Lutheran	3/14 sponsor needed!	3/21 sponsor needed!	holiday 3/26 Holy Cross
APR	4/4 E sponsor needed!	4/11 West Nidros, Benton, Willow	4/18 Peace Lutheran	4/25 Trinity Lutheran
MAY	5/2 First Congregational	5/9 sponsor needed!	5/16 sponsor needed!	5/23 sponsor needed!
JUN	6/6 sponsor needed!	6/13 Grace Lutheran	6/20 sponsor needed!	6/27 Renner Lutheran
JUL	holiday 7/4 sponsor need!	7/11 sponsor needed!	7/18 A WestSide Lutheran	7/25 sponsor needed!
AUG	8/1 sponsor needed!	8/8 Peace Lutheran Church	8/15 sponsor needed!	8/22 St. John Lutheran
SEP	9/5 sponsor needed!	9/12 Gloria Dei Lutheran	9/19 Holy Cross Lutheran	9/26 sponsor needed!
OCT	10/3 East Side Lutheran	10/10 sponsor needed!	10/17 sponsor needed!	10/24 sponsor needed!
NOV	11/7 Peace Lutheran	11/14 sponsor needed!	11/21 Renner Lutheran	holiday 11/26 WestSide
DEC	12/5 sponsor needed!	12/12 sponsor needed!	12/19 sponsor needed!	12/26 sponsor needed!

NECESSITIES - 2024 Calendar		
MONTH	1ST SUN @ PEACE LUTH	3RD TUES @ FIRST LUTHERAN
JAN	1/7 Peace Lutheran	1/16 sponsor needed!
FEB	2/4 sponsor needed!	2/20 sponsor needed!
MAR	3/3 sponsor needed!	3/19 Renner Lutheran
APR	4/7 sponsor needed!	4/16 sponsor needed!
MAY	5/5 Holy Cross Luth	5/21 sponsor needed!
JUN	6/2 sponsor needed!	6/18 sponsor needed!
JUL	7/7 Peace Lutheran	7/16 Holy Cross Luth
AUG	8/4 Gloria Dei	8/20 Grace Lutheran
SEP	9/1 Peace Lutheran	9/17 sponsor needed!
OCT	10/6 Renner Luth	10/15 sponsor needed!
NOV	11/3 Grace Lutheran	11/19 sponsor needed!
DEC	12/1 sponsor needed!	12/17 sponsor needed!

**Thank you to our  
Lutheran Church partners!**

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Augustana</i>        | <i>East Side</i>  |
| <i>First</i>            | <i>Gloria Dei</i> |
| <i>Grace</i>            | <i>Holy Cross</i> |
| <i>Peace</i>            | <i>Renner</i>     |
| <i>Spirit of Joy</i>    | <i>WestSide</i>   |
| <i>Our Savior's</i>     | <i>St. John</i>   |
| <i>Messiah New Hope</i> |                   |

# February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 11:00: Deloris McDonald's Service	6 8 am-5 pm Lifeline Screening	7 5:30 pm LOGOS	8 5pm Endowment Committee	9	10 Pueblo De Dios <b>Kitchen use</b>
11 Guest Pastor Pastor Vehar	12	13 6:00 pm Church Council	14 <u>NO LOGOS</u> 6:00 pm: <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Service with Communion	15 6-7 pm Food To You	16	17
18	19	20	21 5:30 pm LOGOS/Supper with LOGOS 6:00 pm: Lenten Services	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 5:30 pm LOGOS/Supper with LOGOS 6:00 pm Lenten Services	29		

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

(605) 338-1672 - [alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com](mailto:alcsf@augustanasiouxfalls.com)

[www.augustanasiouxfalls.com](http://www.augustanasiouxfalls.com)

Pastor John Paulson

605-550-0718

[pastor@augustanasiouxfalls.com](mailto:pastor@augustanasiouxfalls.com)



**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](mailto:acostamaria985@gmail.com) or [pueblodedios07@yahoo.com](mailto:pueblodedios07@yahoo.com)

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**235 North Prairie Avenue**

**Sioux Falls, SD 57104**