

MARCH 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran

Good News from Augustana Lutheran Church



What's INSIDE this issue . . .

- 2 - Church Council, Council Installation, Letter of Resignation
- 3 - What's Happening
- 4 - Youth Activities / Great Bear Outing
- 5 - FIY; Thank You; Sympathy Notices
- 6 - MARCH Calendar
- 7 - MARCH Bible Readings; MARCH Birthdays
- 8 - Serving Others; Women's Ministries; Showers of Blessings
- 9 - Augustana Financials
- 10 - SD Synod MAR. Inserts
- 12- Contact Information

a word from PASTOR AMY

As my time at Augustana nears an end, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor and I love reflecting on the many ways we have made Christ's love known through the ministry of Augustana Lutheran. We have built bridges in our community and carried for our neighbors through events like the Block Party Fiesta, Food to You meals, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and the Interfaith Iftar. We have also strengthen our own faith and the connections in our congregation through Bible studies, book discussions, Vibrant Faith events, and the prayer pal program. It is amazing to see all the ways that God has been at work in our ministry.

I also want to take this time to thank you all for the support and care you have offered me over the years. Augustana has been a wonderful faith community for me and my family and you have supported me through many major events including the birth of my son and my battle with breast cancer. I am grateful for the love of this community. Augustana will always hold a dear place in my heart, and I know with the strong leaders we have on church council you are in good hands for the future.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Amy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



a word from **The Church Council**

Hi, this is Brian as you've probably heard there are several changes going on at Augustana right now we are in the process of finding a new pastor and an office manager, I want to wish Pastor Amy and Gloria the best in their new endeavors. We have an interim pastor we are looking at but still need an office manager, we intend to push forward to find good replacements. We will be having a Sunday to thank them both. Any ideas on pushing forward are appreciated. God's work our hands, peace.

Cindy Lappégard has agreed to temporarily fill in as office manager once Gloria leaves. She plans to be in the office on Wednesdays. Cindy, you are greatly appreciated.



Michelle Huebner and Lyla Pedersen
being installed to the ALC Council.

Resignation Letter:

To the Council members of Augustana Lutheran Church:

It is with great regret that I wish to tender my resignation from my employment as Office Manager of Augustana Lutheran Church. My last day of employment will be Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

This decision is purely based on personal reasons: my age, my health, etc.

I have enjoyed my 7 plus years at Augustana. I will greatly miss the wonderful people I have met and I have grown to care deeply for them.

I greatly appreciate the help and support I have received from the council and the congregation over the years.

Wishing you all the very best,

Gloria Davis

What's Happening

See what's happening this month!

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-Our book discussion group meets every Wednesday at 12:00 over zoom. On March 10th the group will be starting a new book. A summary of the book is below,

if you would like to join the discussion please let Pastor Amy know.

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.



Please join us for worship on Sunday, March 7th, for a goodbye and sending blessings for Gloria and Pastor Amy.

Bethany Newsletter-Bethany Home is starting a new digital newsletter. As partners with Bethany, all Augustana members will be receiving the newsletter over email. This will be a great way to stay more informed with what is happening at Bethany. If you would not like to receive the newsletter, you may unsubscribe when you get the first email.



Youth activities

LOGOS: I have so enjoyed being able to continue to meet with ALC youth over zoom this last year. During the month of February we studied stories of Jesus' life and ministry. We learned these stories through games, activities, and movement.



Pictures from the outing at Great Bear





• 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 **\$23,675** 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:

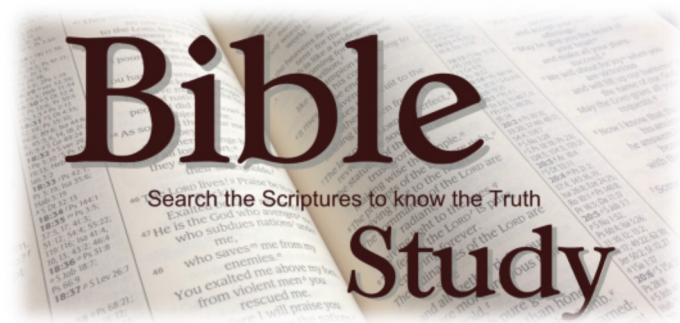
THANK YOU to

- Lorraine Mears and Jeannie Luther for donating postage stamps. They are very needed right now as we do lots of mailings!
- Pat Moffett for the donation of pocket prayer shawls for Church on the Street. They are very appreciated!
- David Stellingwerf and Nancy and Lyndon Kremin for taking care of snow removal all winter!
- Linda Sanden and Nancy Kremin (Worship Assistants) and Pueblo (Church Cleaning).
- A huge thank you to Gloria Davis for her years of faithful service as the ALC office manager. We will so miss the joy and kindness you shared with the congregation. We wish you a blessed retirement!

Heartfelt Sympathy to the family and friends of Ardys Murray and to the family and friends of Nadia Amer. May God be with you and comfort you during this difficult time.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28 9:00am - Zoom Worship with Communion 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 11:00am - Annual Mtg 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	1 MARCH	2	3 Online Lenten Service Gloria's Last Day	4 12 Noon-1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	5	6
7 Pastor Amy's Last Day 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	8 6:30pm - ALC Council Mtg	9	10 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	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	18 6:00pm - Food-to-You (Drive-Up)	19	20
21 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	22	23	24 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	25	26	27
28 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	29	30	31 12 Noon-1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	1 April	2	3



**SCRIPTURE READINGS
FOR
MARCH 2021**

<p align="center">MARCH 7</p> <p align="center">Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p align="center">Lost Sheep, Coin, Son Luke 15: 1-32 <i>(Psalm 119: 167-176)</i> <i>Parables of lost sheep, coin, prodigal son.</i></p>	<p align="center">MARCH 14</p> <p align="center">Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p align="center">Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16: 19-31 <i>(Psalm 41: 1-3)</i> <i>Parable of the rich man and Lazarus.</i></p>	<p align="center">MARCH 21</p> <p align="center">Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p align="center">Zacchaeus Luke 18: 31--19:18 <i>(Psalm 84: 1-4, 10-12)</i> <i>Healing a blind man, meeting Zacchaeus. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.</i></p>
	<p align="center">MARCH 28</p> <p align="center">Palm/Passion Sunday</p> <p align="center">Triumphal Entry Luke 19: 29-44 <i>(Psalm 118: 19-23)</i> <i>Triumphal entry; Jesus weeps over the city that does not know peace.</i></p>	



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 2nd - Leone Kayl | 6th - Ruth Berglund |
| 6th - Terry Engebretson | 6th - Patty Kase |
| 7th - Riley Mears | 8th - Zander Diede |
| 16th - Dennis Martin | 16th - Lyndon Kremin |
| 22nd - Deloris Pederson | 29th - Jeffery Kayl |
| 29th - Maria Richter | |



Ongoing Servant Ministry Projects @ ALC

FOOD-TO-YOU -

On Thursday, MARCH 18TH 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!

JANUARY FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
RECEIPTS	
Offerings for Operating Fund	\$ 9,649.00
Building Fund Offerings	1,395.00
World Hunger Appeal	35.00
Mission Partners (Pierre Lutheran)	100.00
Reimbursements/Refunds	56.45
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 11,235.45
EXPENDITURES	
Advertising	\$ 10.64
Worship Materials	52.68
Water / Sewer / Garbage / Elec / Phone / Internet / Heat	1,119.24
Maintenance & Repair	677.79
Staff Support	5,882.15
Mortgage Payment	2,500.00
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	46.81
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 10,289.32

Current balance on the church mortgage is \$42,251.92



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

March 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! - As you read these lines, you are already deep into the wilderness of Lent. I hope you took advantage of our joint Lenten journey "40 Days with our Neighbors in Solidarity." It's never too late to join the journey. Details are available through the synod's website (sdsynod.org).

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 2021 Synod Assembly, which will be held on June 4-5. Usually we gather in person, but this year we will gather from across the synod virtually. "Oh, no!" you may cry out. "We have never done that before. How will that work?" I am writing to you to assure you that your synod council, synod staff, synod assembly planning team, production company and a host of others are already working feverishly on creating an event where every participant will arrive confident and feeling well equipped to fully participate in the assembly.

Please, do not let the new format scare you away, but know that we are already working on paving the path for you to show up confident and with good courage to be in ministry together. In order for every participant to be well equipped we must adhere to firm deadlines, please be diligent in your registration and participation. While we are all about that grace, when it comes to registration deadlines this year the law prevails. It prevails, because we want to have enough time to equip and educate our voting members well. Watch for communication to come from your synod office soon and choose to participate, either as a voting member from your congregation or as a visitor in the first ever virtual South Dakota Synod Assembly. Let's journey together in Christ and make some history.

Journeying in Christ with you,
 Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
 Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

God the Vinegrower

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

Lent is a time of preparation, of self-examination, of taking on a spiritual discipline to focus on our relationship with God. Jesus tells us that God is the vinegrower, that he is the vine, and that any branch that bears no fruit is removed, and every branch that bears fruit will be pruned to bear more fruit (John 15:1-2). So I ask you to reflect, what are the branches in your life - your habits, your thoughts, your actions - that do or do

not bear fruit? What does it mean to cultivate yourself as a branch that bears fruit as God desires?

While we enter into this practice personally, I think this is also an opportunity for congregations to ask these questions of themselves. What does it mean to remove a branch that bears no fruit in your congregation? What would it mean to let go of a ministry that is not having an impact, that doesn't proclaim the Gospel, grow disciples, or serve our neighbors? What does it mean to prune those ministries that do bear fruit, so that they bear even more?

This pandemic has brought us a time to ask these questions, and the season of Lent highlights that need again. In your council meetings or leadership teams for ministries, ask these questions. Examine what has been done, and talk about what is worth investing resources into for the future. God has incredible dreams for us, but is also not afraid to prune away dying branches. We should also be brave enough to let go of what no longer works.

Are all cells the same?

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

"Mom, are all cells the same?" my six-year-old asked me before bed this week. He has a tendency to ask deep and probing questions in the final hour prior to his heavy eyelids closing for the night. I often find myself stumbling through an answer, or googling something quick, or simply admitting: "I actually don't know the answer to that, Sweetheart." To my kindergartner's inquisitive question, I had to "phone a friend." I texted my two sisters-in-law, one of which is a geneticist, and one an endocrinologist, not to mention faithful disciples of Jesus. Here is the answer I got from Dr. Katie Larson Ode, to the question, "Are all cells the same?":

No! Not even close! What a great question! For instance—nerve cells—they can be *very* long but very thin. Your longest cell in your body is the nerve that helps you feel things at the end of your big toe. The nerve cell's body is in your spinal cord, but the part that senses feeling is at the tip of your toe. So, it is as long as your whole leg, but so thin you cannot see it without a magnifying glass!

Muscle cells and the cells that break down your bones (osteoclasts) are made by many cells fusing together. Red blood cells get rid of their nucleus and their mitochondria and basically are just bags of hemoglobin. Macrophages (a type of white blood cell) actively eat germs (bacteria and viruses) that get inside your body and kill them! Cells are so cool! Biology is so awesome in the true sense of awe.

hard and caused many to miss one of the two harvests this year because of sickness. People were already desperate when the final blows of 2 hurricanes hit.

Our missionary, Rev. Dr. Soliette Lopez Ortega, shared that hunger has already become a problem and a true famine in the area could occur if something is not done to help. They hope to be able to replant this fall when the water recedes or barring that possibility, plant another crop in the spring. But...

THEY HAVE NO MONEY FOR SEED!

As people of the land, we understand the need for seed and soil to harvest. We know the hardship of no harvests. In the United States, we have insurance and farm plans from our government to fall back on. The people of Nicaragua have nothing to help them out of this disaster.

They have nothing but us...their partners in prayer and faith.

We are asking the people of the South Dakota Synod to step up and help our companion synod siblings from Nicaragua as we journey together in Christ to raise money to buy seeds for the future and hope in Nicaragua.

Each cooperative's seed will cost them \$1,445.00. We are setting a goal of raising \$14,000.00 for the farmers in Nicaragua.

Donations can be sent directly to the South Dakota Synod. You can donate online (sdsynod.org/donate) or mail a check made payable to the South Dakota Synod, ELCA (2001 S. Summit Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57197). Please mark your donation to be used for "Seeds of Hope for Nicaragua."

Thank you for your financial support and prayers for Nicaragua.

With a 2021 Resolution Makeover, *your life can make a difference.*

Every New Year's Eve, we determine to make the next year better than the last. We promise ourselves that we'll eat healthier, get more exercise, save more money, and make more friends. Of the top nine New Year's resolutions, everyone is about self-improvement... inwardly directed. And every year, at least 80% of us fail.

What if we reversed the focus and resolved to make life better for others? Is it possible that generosity might be a resolution with a positive outcome for everyone involved?

According to the authors of *Big Think*^{*}, research suggests that helping others doesn't just benefit the recipient. It pays dividends to your health, happiness, and well-being too.

Just like any other resolution, the best chance at success comes with a specific plan. Know your passion. Give of your time and talents. Be proactive and seek opportunities to make a difference—don't wait for a need to appear on your doorstep. Maybe 2021 really can be the year for a happier and healthier you!

Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD can help you create a personalized resolution of generosity in 2021.

Contact Kathy McHenry at 605.274.5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org.

^[*]<https://bigthink.com/personal-growth/new-years-resolution-help-others/>

SAVE THE DATE IN 2021!

Lay Leader Kick-Off Night:

February 2 at 7:00 PM CT

Evening of learning, connecting, and resource sharing from the synod office. This invitation is open to all newly elected lay leaders in congregations such as presidents, treasurers, secretaries, and council members.

Region 3 Discernment Retreat:

Session 1: March 9th from 7:00-8:30pm CT

Session 2: March 16th from 7:00-8:30pm CT

Synod Assembly

June 4-5, 2021

Scheduled to take place at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls. A final determination on whether or not assembly will be online will be voted on at the March synod council meeting.

Are you signed up for the weekly synod news?

Head over to sdsynod.org and click the sign-up on the homepage to be included on the weekly synod news email. Each week you will find updates and news happening across the South Dakota Synod and in the ELCA.

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 (during pandemic): Wednesday 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 no later than:

8:00 am - Tuesday, MARCH 16th

- Emailing/Mailing/Distribution will be the week of MARCH. 22nd



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

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

235 N Prairie Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57104