

May 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran

Good News from Augustana Lutheran Church



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Christ is risen! Alleluia! A blessed Easter season to you and your loved ones.

Holy Week worship services (Palm Sun., Maundy Thurs., Easter Sun.), as well as other weekly worship services, are available on the congregation's website and Facebook page. Thank you to the many individuals who assisted with Holy Week worship; it takes roughly 5-8 volunteers for each weekly worship service. Holy Week was a wonderful experience of the risen Christ in our midst!

It has been a gift to get to know a number of ALC members, and I am particularly grateful for the work of the Church Council. Their guidance and persistence will be crucial for the next steps in the call process as God guides your next pastor to ALC. Please, know that you are welcome to contact me for pastoral care, prayer, conversation, or any other needs.



Pastor Jon's message continued

Thank you for your continued connection and support of this congregation. Good ministry happens here, both as a congregation and as a place of welcome. Pueblo de Dios continues to be a close ministry partner, and ALC recently opened our doors to 1st African Lutheran Ministry for their community to host a funeral and wake in our building. ALC is vital to these ministries.

We have some service and worship opportunities this month:

Spring clean-up day on May 1st, 9:00am-noon, both outdoor and indoor projects. ALC is serving Food-to-You free drive-up food distribution on Thurs., May 20th, here at ALC. And, Pentecost Sunday worship will be outdoors at ALC on May 23rd at 10:00am.

Go to the "Volunteer Sign-Up" page on the ALC website to get connected.

Blessings in your life and ministry!

In Christ,

Interim Pastor Jon

Pentecost Sunday Worship – Outdoors

Spring has sprung and the Holy Spirit is alive!



Gather on Sunday, May 23rd at 10:00am for Pentecost Sunday worship on the lawn (weather permitting). The story of Pentecost from the book of Acts will be heard, Holy Communion will be shared, songs will be sung, and children will join in a mini-parade. Bring your own chair or blanket for this festive worship service. As it will be outside, congregational singing will be possible.

Come, join in worship, giving thanks for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and our shared ministry. Contact Interim Pastor Jon (pastorjon.sl@gmail.com) if you would like to help in any way. A blessed Pentecost to you!

What's Happening

See what's happening this month!

Noisy Offering-The Noisy Offering through June 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. A summary of the book we are currently reading is below.

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.



Mark your calendars - Saturday, May 1st (9 a.m. - Noon) has been set aside for the annual Spring Clean-up Day at Augustana Lutheran Church. Rain day is Saturday, May 22nd for outside work if needed.

Plans are to focus on cleaning the church sanctuary, main social hall / kitchen, and the foyer area as well as clean-up work on the landscaping and grounds area around the church building.

We are looking for 10 volunteers to help out. Volunteers can sign up via Sign-up Genius on the ALC church website: <http://www.augustanasiousfalls.com/volunteer-sign-up-links.html>

Volunteers working outside are encouraged to bring work gloves and a rake. If any volunteers have a shop vac or ice-cream size pails and rags, we could use those also that morning.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •



YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH BY BUYING AND USING HYVEE CARDS to do your grocery shopping. **Due to COVID-19, please contact Linda Sanden to purchase your HyVee cards. You can reach Linda 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 **\$23,875** 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.



Food-to-You Mobile Food Pantry



Food-to-You (one arm of Charis Ministries, mobilefoodpantry.org) is a program in Sioux Falls that was originated 12 years ago. Augustana Lutheran Church is both a monthly host site as well as one of the founding ELCA congregations. ALC hosts Food-to-You the third

Thursday of each month; our congregation we will be serving this month on May 20th. During the pandemic Food-to-You has shifted to a drive-thru format. And, as their website states: "No need to be early; all will be served." Indeed, all are served as Food-to-You serves between 60 and 100 families each week.

Please, sign-up to help on May 20th on the ALC website under the "Volunteer Sign-up" drop down page. 20+ volunteers are needed each week. Thank you!

LOGOS

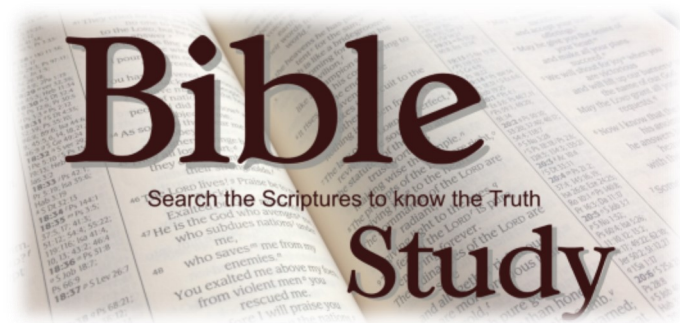
Will be meeting in person a couple of times during May. There will no meetings on Zoom.

Contact Pastor Jon if you have any questions



chibird.tumblr.com

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Spring Cleaning Day 9am - 12 pm
2 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship on YouTube & Facebook 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	3	4	5 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	10 6:30pm ALC Church Council	11	12 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	13	14	15
16 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	20 6:00pm - Food-to-You (Drive-Up) Help w/Food to You	21	22 Alternate Spring Cleaning Day (if needed) Parking Lot Use for Zomer Estate Auction
23 Pentecost Sunday 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	24	25	26 12 Noon- 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	27	28	29
30 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	31					



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR

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	<p>May 2</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Council at Jerusalem Acts 15:1-18 (Luke 2:29-32)</p> <p>Council at Jerusalem, Faith gives identity to both Jews & Gentiles</p>	<p>May 9</p> <p>Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Resurrection of Our Lord Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21 (Luke 18:9-14)</p> <p>Paul's former life; conflict with Peter at Antioch; justification by faith.</p>
<p>May 16</p> <p>Seventh Sunday of Easter</p> <p>One in Christ Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29 (Luke 1:68-79)</p> <p>Neither Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; one in Christ.</p>	<p>May 23</p> <p>Day of Pentecost</p> <p>Pentecost; Fruits of the Spirit Acts 2:1-4 Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26] (Luke 11:11-13)</p> <p><i>Pentecost; God pours the Spirit into our hearts so we can call on God as Father.</i> <i>Fruit of the Spirit</i></p>	<p>May 30</p> <p><i>Psalm 1</i> <i>(John 14:1-6)</i></p> 



3rd	Flora Richter	13th	Francis Erickson
5th	Amber Stellingwerf	13th	Dawson Sauby
6th	Erin Bertram	17th	Javian Maldonado
6th	Crystal Bartling	25th	Marvel Hansen
8th	Robert Johnson	25th	Virgil Huebner
9th	Beverly Erickson	27th	Karlyn Stellingwerf
9th	Jennifer Koepsell	29th	Michelle Herman



Ongoing Servant Ministry Projects @ ALC

FOOD-TO-YOU -

On Thursday, May 20TH starting at 6 p.m. Food-To-You will do a drive-up distribution of food. Augustana is signed up to help this month. There is a sign up on the Augustana Web Page. We will not be providing a meal at this time. The food for May is Peanut Butter. The food for June is Tuna & Tuna Helper.



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:

**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!

MARCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

RECEIPTS

Offerings for Operating Fund	\$ 4,973.00
Offerings for Building Fund	\$ 1,240.00
Noisy Offering (for Bishop Dudley House)	\$ 17.51
Congregational Fund Raising (Hy-Vee cards)	\$ 75.00
Donation for hand sanitizer	\$ 5.00
Mission Partner (Memorial Lutheran-Pierre)	\$ 200.00
Pueblo de Dios	\$ 350.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 6,860.51

EXPENSES PAID

Advertising: Website hosting	\$ 10.64
Worship & Music: Zoom subscription	\$ 15.96
Office Supplies	\$ 30.00
Custodial Supplies	\$ 24.49
Insurance	\$ 754.83
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 630.53
Utilities & Phone	\$ 1,519.17
Staff Support	\$ 7,267.06
Mortgage Payment	\$ 2,000.00
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	\$ 40.93
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,293.61

Balance remaining on the mortgage: \$38,014.73



Twice in the Gospels there is a story about a woman anointing Jesus with pure nard, one in Mark and one in John. In Mark, an unnamed woman comes to Jesus and anoints his head. [In John](#), it's Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who anoints Jesus' feet. In both Gospels the anointing happens just days before the crucifixion. In both stories the disciples criticize the women for their wanton extravagance. In both stories Jesus defends the women and declares that they have anointed his body for burial.

This is a very human Jesus facing his impending death and pausing in the midst of all the turmoil to be ministered to so tenderly. Jesus is with his friends sharing a meal in their warm company. Soon his head and feet would be pierced by thorns and nails. But in these moments, his head and hands are soothed. In John we hear the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume (12:3).

Not long before this, Jesus had [raised Lazarus](#) from the dead. Impatient Martha ran to meet Jesus and chided him for not coming sooner. When Jesus commanded that the stone be rolled away from the tomb, Martha cautioned, "Lord, already there is a stench, because he has been dead four days" (John 11:39). Quite a different fragrance.

Not long after Jesus was anointed with the pure nard, he would gather with his disciples to eat the Passover. Dear friends, good food and wine, and the remembrance of not only the spiritual struggle for freedom but of the physical experience of oppression and violence against their own bodies in Egypt. The bread and wine of that supper fed and warmed the bodies of the disciples.

I had a colleague who once said that our lack of awareness of our spiritual hunger—distracted as we are by all the cares of life—is like someone not even realizing that she was hungry until she smelled baking bread. Stephen Bouman, former executive director of the Domestic Mission unit, remembers as a child that when his parents came back from receiving communion, they smelled different—certainly the wine, but also a fragrance of life.

In significant and sometimes disastrous ways, we have separated ourselves from the creation and the Creator.

All of this points to creatureliness—Jesus' and ours. In significant and sometimes disastrous ways, we have separated ourselves from the creation and the Creator. Adam was formed from Adamah, the dust of the earth. Adam was the earth creature. We are earth creatures.

At the beginning of Lent we heard: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Too often in Western thought the material, created world has been deemed inferior to the spiritual—as if God would divorce God's self from the universe God created in love. ["Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice,"](#) the 1993 ELCA social statement, acknowledges humanity's separation from God and from the rest of creation as a central cause of the environmental crisis. Can we return home to God, the creation and ourselves?

Just before his crucifixion Jesus said to his disciples: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). It falls into the earth, the created earth. God keeps creating.

Back to nard. Nard was rare and expensive. It was also pungent. It has been described as earthy, woody, dank, musty. In short, it smelled like the earth. And it was strong. The account in John says that the fragrance filled the room. It's likely that that fragrance clung to Jesus' body on the cross and in the tomb. Here was the complete accomplishment of the Incarnation—the earth creature of Eden is redeemed by the earth creature of Calvary, Emmanuel, God with us. All of creation is reconciled.

This April we celebrate Easter and observe Earth Day. Heaven and earth meet—redeemed, reconciled and reunited in the beauty of the Creator's loving handiwork.

Thank You

This month we recognize the following for sharing their gifts:

- * To those who helped during worship on Sundays with Reading & Greeting
- * To those who helped with cleaning the church
- * To Michelle Huebner, Linda Sanden & Anna Amundson for ongoing job of cleaning the basement
- * To Anna Amundson, Jackie Doese, Zander & Eleanor Diede for their participation on Easter Sunday Service
- * To Pastors Jon & Renee Splichal Larson for their special music Easter Sunday

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING WHO BLESSED OUR CHURCH WITH FLOWERS THIS EASTER

Fred & Pat Moffett in memory of Rudy Ebert & Lorraine Weckert

Fred & Pat Moffett in memory of John & Leona Moffett

Virgil Huebner & family in memory of Marge Huebner

Cindy Lappégard & family in memory of Eric Lappégard

Deloris McDonald & family in memory of Doris & Lyle Skillman and Bernie McDonald

Jim & Linda Sanden in memory of Betty & Dean Holm

Jim & Linda Sanden in memory of Bill Rush



AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor Jon Splichal-Larson 701-516-2680

Office hours (during pandemic): Wednesday 9:00m-3:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings

By appointment at other times

pastor@augustanasiouxfalls.com

pastorjon.sl@gmail.com

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, May 18th

- Emailing/Mailing/Distribution will be the week of May 24th



Pueblo de Dios

235 North Prairie Avenue

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Pastor Maria Cabello-Salomon

605-339-8571 or 605-370-3604

acostamaria985@gmail.com or pueblodedios07@yahoo.com

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