

April 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran

Good News from Augustana Lutheran Church



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Greetings, Augustana Lutheran Church members and friends!

I'm Pastor Jon, and I'm excited to serve with you as your Interim Pastor; my first day was March 18. I am also very grateful for the many years of service by Pastor Amy, and we pray for her in her next ministry. Pastor Amy is a wonderful colleague and has been a gift for you all.

Augustana Lutheran Church, you are a congregation with faithful history as well as openness to diverse ministry, being nestled in the historic district of beautiful Sioux Falls. Thank you for your faithful service over the many years (almost 140 years!), and thank you for the ways you support Christ's church even in this challenging time. I am very much looking forward to serving with you!

I have roots in this area. My dad grew up in Sioux Falls, my mom graduated from high school in Canton and from Augustana College, and I am an Augustana College (now University) alum. It is good to be back! I served as a pastor in Bismarck, North Dakota, and my wife, Pastor Renee, is also an ELCA pastor. We moved to South Dakota about 1.5 years ago following her call as the Associate to the Bishop



Pastor Jon's message continued

of the SD Synod, serving with Bishop Hagmaier. We have two energetic little boys, and my sister, Liz, lives with us. I look forward to you meeting my family in the coming days.

You are now in a time of transition. And, the world is in a time of transition, too, as we continue to live with uncertainty in this pandemic. Yet, there is hope in the form of vaccines, and there is even more hope in God! The Holy Spirit is alive and at work in our world, and I trust that to be true for this congregation as well. The SD Synod is ready to help you in this pastoral transition, and I am here to support you in your ministry.

My prayers are with you, dear Augustana Lutheran Church. Let us trust in God's unfailing faithfulness as we enter into this hope-filled Easter season.

In Christ,

Pastor Jon Splichal Larson

a word from **The Church Council**

I would like to welcome Pastor Jon Splichal Larson as our Interim Pastor. I hope you all come to meet him & make him feel welcome, peace, Brian



Thank you so much for a wonderful last Sunday. I appreciate all your kind messages and gifts.

I was so surprised by the congregational gift and am looking forward to the time we can travel and use the gift cards.

Again, thank you for the wonderful years together. God Bless, Pastor Amy

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. 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.



To the wonderful people of Augustana Lutheran Church,
To say Thank You seems so inadequate. I was totally overwhelmed by your very generous gifts. The people of ALC will always be very dear to me. May God bless you all.

Thank You, Gloria

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.



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 \$23,750

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

- * 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 cleaning the North Social Hall in the basement.
- * To Cindy Lappegard for postage



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Maunday Thursday Service In person & on YouTube & Facebook	2	3
4 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship on YouTube & Facebook 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	5	6	7 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion	8	9	10
11 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	12 6:30pm ALC Church Council	13	14 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 6:00pm LOGOS Zoom	15 6:00pm - Food-to-You (Drive-Up)	16	17
18 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 12 Noon - 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 6:00pm LOGOS Zoom	22	23	24
25 10:00am - Worship and Online Worship 12:30pm - Pueblo de Dios Worship	26	27	28 12 Noon- 1:00pm - Zoom Book Discussion 6:00pm LOGOS Zoom	29	30	1 May



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR

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<p>APRIL 1</p> <p>Maunday Thursday <i>Last Supper</i> <i>Luke 22:1-27</i> <i>(Psalm 34:8-10)</i> <i>Words of Institution</i> <i>Jesus is one who serves</i></p>	<p>APRIL 2</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>Crucifixion <i>Luke 23:32-47</i> <i>(Psalm 31:5-13)</i> Crucifixion, Father forgive them; today in Paradise; into your hands I commend my Spirit</p>	<p>APRIL 4</p> <p>Easter</p> <p>Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Luke 24:1-12</i> <i>(Psalm 118:17, 21-24)</i> Empty tomb, women perplexed, bring the message</p>
<p>APRIL 11</p> <p>Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Emmaus Road <i>Luke 24:13-35</i> <i>(Psalm 30)</i> “Our hearts burned along the road, as he opened to us the Scriptures”</p>	<p>APRIL 18</p> <p>Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Stephen’s Witness <i>Acts 5:1-7:2a, 44-60</i> <i>(Luke 23:33-34a, 46)</i> Controversy in the early church; some set aside for service. Stephen forgives and is martyred.</p>	<p>APRIL 25</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized</i> <i>Acts 8:26-39</i> <i>(Luke 24:44-47)</i> Ethiopian reads the scriptures, comes to believe and be baptized by Philip.</p>



- 3rd Darla Lambertz
- 8th Jovie Lappegard
- 10th Lynn Braa
- 12th Jameson Stellingwerf
- 17th Jerald Suing
- 27th Jessica Lappegard



Ongoing Servant Ministry Projects @ ALC

FOOD-TO-YOU -

On Thursday, APRIL 15TH 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:

**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!

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
RECEIPTS	
Offerings for Operating Fund	\$ 7,340.00
Building Fund Offerings	845.00
Pueblo de Dios	350.00
Mission Partners (Pierre Lutheran)	300.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 8,835.00
EXPENDITURES	
ELCA Missions & World Hunger	\$ 135.00
Charitable Giving from Discretionary Fund	265.80
Crossroads Conference	11.80
Advertising	10.64
Worship Materials & Devotional Books	112.51
Office Supplies	105.04
Insurance	754.83
Water / Sewer / Garbage / Elec / Phone / Internet / Heat	1312.96
Maintenance & Repair	853.94
Staff Support	6,068.41
Mortgage Payment	2,500.00
Bank Fees / Finance Charges	41.18
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$12,172.11

Balance remaining on the mortgage: \$39,751.92

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

235 North Prairie Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57104

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www.augustanasiouxfalls.com

Pastor Jon Splichal-Larson 701-516-2680

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

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings

By appointment at other times

pastor@augustanasiouxfalls.com

pastorjon.sl@gmail.com

Office Manager Cindy Lappgard - 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, April 20th

- Emailing/Mailing/Distribution will be the week of

April 26th



Pueblo de Dios

235 North Prairie Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Pastor Maria Cabello-Salamon

605-339-8571 or 605-370-3604

acostamaria985@gmail.com or pueblodedios07@yahoo.com

Dear Church, Siblings in Christ, South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A seasoned home-bound member of one of the congregations I served once said to me: “As I age the days pass by slowly, while the years fly by.” At the time I didn’t fully understand, but throughout this past year, I have come to understand these words better. As we look back on a year living with and being the Church during the Coronavirus pandemic, I had days that moved along painfully slowly. Now, as I look back on the entire year, I can’t believe that it has been 12 months already. It seems just like yesterday that life as we knew it has changed forever. Last year today I wrote in my journal: “Covid-19 sweeps through nations in the blink of an eye. But most frightening is the angst it brings along as a companion.”

As we mark this anniversary I would like to begin with the Apostle Paul’s words *“Every time I think of you, I give thanks.”* (Philippians 1:3) These last 12 months have been challenging for each and everyone of us. While we most certainly are not all in the same boat, we found ourselves in the same storm. And here we are, still being church, still being beloved children of an awesome God. Thank you, for being Church in challenging times. Thank you for being Church together. Thank you for **journeying together in Christ**. *“Every time I think of you, I give thanks.”*

I also dare to say that we didn’t just show up during the pandemic as a Church in South Dakota, but we have wrestled with and grown in our understanding what Church is. The traditional Sunday school rhyme goes like this: *“This is the church, this is the steeple, open the doors, see all the people.”* We have learned to alter it in these past twelve months. “This is the church, the building’s closed, but there still is a steeple, and look, God’s on the loose amongst the people.” You have found new ways or rediscovered and reactivated ‘old tricks’ to continue the proclamation of God’s Word, to care for the neighbor, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Thank you!

I would also like to invite us to pause for the over half a million lives lost to Covid-19. Some of these deaths are family members, co-workers, friends, and neighbors. Undoubtedly Covid-19 has changed us personally, our state, country and world, but also our churches. We are no longer who we were before Covid-19 and we will not ever be who we were. But the good news is that because we believe in a God who can bring forth life out of all circumstances, even from death, we have everything we need to bring hope and healing to the hurting places in our lives and communities.

Dear Church, I challenge you to create safe spaces that invite and allow people to name and mourn the people, opportunities and freedoms they have lost without being condemned, shunned and labeled. We need to remember that losses throughout the pandemic come in various forms, feel different for different people and

impact individuals and communities in manifold and oftentimes yet unknown ways. Our job as the Church is to provide for spaces and opportunities that promote healing and reconciliation. Every single loss is real. I urge you to be patient, kind and loving with your siblings in Christ, to listen so you understand because just like you, your neighbor walks as wet as you do. Both of you are broken and have been forgiven. Both of you, even if you are as far from each other as the East is from the West, are claimed by the same Triune God, who calls you both beloved children.

Therefore I urge you to treat your neighbor as you want to be treated and provide for each other what is needed to be reconciled in Christ not because of who you are, but because of who God is, what he has done and continues to do. Dear SD Synod, God has called us to journey together, because he believes that together we can be more and do more than on our own.

Over the past year I have heard many of you say: "I just want to go back to normal." And again I ask, "which normal?" When I traveled the state following my 2019 election, you unanimously told me that you don't think the way we are currently the Church is what the Church is ought to be of tomorrow. Remember, this was said pre-pandemic. Then you asked me to lead you into becoming the Church God challenges us to grow into for the sake of being living witnesses to a God who can bring forth life amidst dust, ashes, death and a pandemic.

"Nothing is impossible for God." I trust these words from Matthew 19:26 and I invite you to do the same as we stretch and are teased to leave our comfort zones behind for the sake of furthering God's kingdom so that all are welcome. After all, we are Easter people. We believe that there is life in the midst of death.

Please know that I have assembled a task force of lay people and rostered ministers from the South Dakota Synod to work on tools and modules for revitalizing ministry. You can expect to access these resources in the late Spring and early Summer so that you have ample of time to prepare for your congregation's Fall ministry and activities.

Last but not least, because of your generous 2020 mission support we were able to close our fiscal year with extraordinary gifts — gifts beyond what we had hoped for in the year. The synod council is making plans to return these extraordinary gifts as seeds for the future to the congregations of the South Dakota Synod to begin new ministries, and to support and equip leaders and congregations for God's future. Thank you for the many ways you continue to be witnesses of the good news of Jesus Christ across the synod.

May God continue to bless you as we journey together in this new season of being church.

Journeying Together in Christ,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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