



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER August 2021

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Sharing the love of Jesus in our changing world.

Pastor's Ponderings

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23

In the midst of summer I welcome eating raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, and so many other fruits! As I eat fresh blueberries and pick raspberries from a neighbor's prickly vine, I am reminded of Paul's call to the Galatians to reflect the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. These fruit are so needed now as we continue to be a divided world which focuses on self, power, and the other (in not a good way).

I intend to try to taste these precious expressions of God's love as I interact with God's creation. Love is # 1 and the most important. This type of love is selfless and includes the rest of the words in Paul's list, like generosity. Joy is helpful when things get overwhelming, and anxiety or depression take over. A little joy brings a moment of peace, like seeing the blooming flowers and bright colored birds, or by remembering a treasured time with friends or family. Kindness is not trite; it is an expression and action that might recharge a relationship or lower tension in a room. Faithfulness includes loyalty to relationships and to the call of forgiveness that Jesus gives to us. As you trust the relationship with God, we will start trusting the relationship with others. The self-control fruit helps us have more to give others and to be an example in the midst of excess.

Paul also challenges the reader in Galatians to "bear one another's burden," and "work for the good of all."

As the sun shines brightly in our lives during the summer, May God grant that God's "son" shine brightly in our lives!

God bless and keep you.

Pastor Fred

In-Person Coffee Hour Resumes

The Re-opening Committee is happy to announce that we have started Coffee Hour again. The coffee hour on 8/1 benefits the school in Sierra Leone. The next coffee hour is August 29th, and then we will have coffee hour every other week starting September 12th until the end of the year. There is a sign-p sheet on the bulletin board next to the flower sign up sheet in the nar-thex.



If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Paulette Hotchkiss.

Augustana Summer Outreach Focus: Model Evangelical Primary School Roknola Village, Sierra Leone

When Alan Sesay spoke at Augustana a few weeks ago, he said they need \$2,000 more in order to complete the school building. Augustana has a goal of meeting that need.

If we collect additional money we will use it to provide food.

We will let you know the outcome of our donation drive soon!
Thank you for your support.

More information and photos are on the Sierra Leone Cultural Association's website.
<http://www.slcawny.org>

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Ministry On The Road Report Update - August 2021

By Paul Kennedy

In-person learner's permit classes have not yet resumed, but we continue to provide professional driving lessons for those who already have their permits.

*Service to others is life-affirming.
We engage in service as an expression of gratitude to a gracious God.*

Lutheran World Relief

LWR field facilitator Vony Menno (left) teaches women about improved farming techniques during a forest conservation and agroforestry training in Sumba, Indonesia.



Augustana receives a publication from Lutheran World Relief called God's Love in Action. (Lutheran World Relief is also the organization that coordinates the quilt project.) This photo and article highlights one of the projects supported by Lutheran World Relief.

Amid Global Shutdowns, Your Love Persisted

Many of us will look back over the past year and a half and remember the many things we missed out on: Easter services, vacations, graduations, mission trips. But let's also remember that your love for your neighbors continued to travel all across the world, even while you stayed close to home, thanks to dedicated LWR staff.

Oktolina Refornita Alu Menno, who goes by Vony, lives in Indonesia with her father and siblings and loves to sing in her church's choir. She is also your hands and feet on the ground, having joined LWR staff in February 2020 — just weeks before the pandemic was declared.

Vony's job is to teach communities better ways to manage their land to reduce climate change. Traditional, inefficient practices have caused major deforestation and the burning of savannas to make way for crops and livestock. Vony teaches them better ways to farm to ensure families can grow more food and increase their income, while also promoting conservation.

Normally, she would focus her time organizing trainings with community members, farmers groups and local government leaders. But just weeks into her time at LWR, she had to expand her work to educate people on COVID prevention and safety protocols, ensure meeting areas had space for social distancing and provide masks, hand sanitizer, handwashing equipment and temperature checks at every meeting.

It has been a challenging year, but Vony has remained dedicated to helping her neighbors, most of whom have lived in poverty all their lives. "COVID-19 has significantly affected income in the community," she said, a fact that has continued to motivate her work every day. After all, poverty and climate change do not get put on hold just because there's a pandemic. "I am always happy to see and feel the changes in communities that I have assisted. I love to see the positive changes in their perspectives, behaviors and values. This is why I joined LWR more than year ago."

Excerpted from online article by Emily Esworthy

<https://lwr.org/blog/2021/amid-global-shutdowns-your-love-persisted-indonesia>

Augustana Gardens Update



People who attend Augustana are greeted by the beautiful greenery and many shrubs that Paul maintains near the main door and along the sidewalk leading to the main door.

Tom moved some landscaping stones to make this garden smaller so there is less weeding to do in the future. →



Next he will do the same in this area, but he could use help! ←

Donna is fostering native plants in two gardens. One has about 50 milkweed plants that she planted from seed in the fall of 2020. Native thistle is also growing in that space. The other native garden, near the wheelchair entrance, is currently a ~~mess~~ work in progress! She could use help with those spaces, as well as help with general weeding and keeping the flowering trees trimmed.



Call/text Donna (425-7870) if you would like to help.



Kids can take home a new 'Happy Times' magazine.

→
Grown ups can take home a daily devotional book for July —Sept.

←
We will gladly mail these to you.
Just contact Augustana's church office.



Update on Augustana Church Office Mail Folders

The folders on the wall behind the door are in use again for Council members, staff and others who routinely receive mail, notes and messages at church. If there is no folder for you but you would like one, let Donna Bartkowski know by contacting her in the church office.

Augustana Bulletin Announcements and Newsletter Articles

The 'message basket' is back on the office desk. If you would like to place an announcement in the bulletin, please put it in the basket. You can also email your announcements to the church email address or call them in to the church office. Announcements need to be received by Wednesday evening in order to be in the bulletin that coming Sunday.

Email your newsletter articles to Carol Kreger: carnoe44@msn.com. The deadline for the September newsletter is 8/29.

Since we put our newsletter on our website and it is visible to the general public, we do not put announcements about specific individuals in the newsletter; we put them in the bulletin. The bulletin gets US mailed and emailed to people associated with Augustana's congregation, but does not get posted on the internet.

Happening at Trinity Old Lutheran (TOL)

Adult Retreat: "Love in the Time of COVID:" "What have we learned about ourselves and others?: We hope to return to our annual retreat this year and gather again for fellowship, laughter and prayer at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran camp on October 1, 2 and 3. Details and restrictions are rather changeable, but a vaccination will be required. There will be more information when we have a clearer picture of the gathering. There is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board, and if you are worshiping with us on Zoom, or are a member of Augustana, call or email the office and we can add your name.

Theme Basket Returning: On Sunday, Sept. 12, we are planning another Chiavetta's Chicken dinner and this year, the theme basket raffle is returning! Baskets, gift cards, and other items will be needed to make this year's event a success. If you'd like, we can assemble baskets with the items you donate. Please bring your basket or items/donations to church before or by Sunday, September 5. Any questions about the theme basket auction, please see Debbie Feger or Kelly Barker. Stay tuned for further details about the chicken dinner, and watch for the sign-up sheets!

Operation Christmas Child: We are collecting items for this year's shoe boxes throughout the year. There is a list of items needed in the Trinity Tidings (monthly newsletter) and a collection box is in the narthex for your items. Thank you for your continued support.

Book Sale Continues: We are having a book sale in their Resource Library. You are free to donate puzzles or books to add to the library.

3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226
Office: (716) 836-4868 / trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net

Reminder: Next Augustana Council Meeting, Thursday, August 12, 7:00 pm

Altar Flowers

There has been a price increase for altar flowers. They now cost \$15.00.

How to order flowers to be placed at the altar:

First sign up on the flower chart. Then, on the envelope, write your name, indicate in whose name the flowers are given, and the date the flowers will be on the altar. Please put the envelope in the offering plate. If the church service has ended, please put the envelope in the offering plate the next time you are at church.

OR You can write a check made out to Augustana Lutheran Church and mail the payment to the church. Please ask Barb if you have any questions.



Opportunities to Serve at Augustana

Greeter: Greet attendees and take attendance. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex (entry hall, near the sanctuary doors).

Tech Person: Set up the Laptop, iPad and TV for Zoom. Need to be at church at 8:45am. The volunteer only needs to set up, not run the equipment during church.

Building Care: Lock up the church office and outside doors, turn off lights.

Please see **Lance Scarafia** if you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions, or contact him: **(716) 970-0170/ ministeraugustana@yahoo.com** .

WORSHIP QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or concerns about our worship practices, please contact the Church Office at 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com, and Paulette Hotchkiss will get back to you.

Worship on Cable TV: Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV Channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Pastors Beigner, Carroll, and Smith lead this worship.

Thank you for your offerings and donations.

You can give your offering at church, US mail it to church, or give online through Tithe.ly.
(For information on Tithe.ly, see our website: augustanaonline.org.)

Augustana Lutheran Church

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www.augustanaonline.org

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