



## Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

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 Kingdom of God is not us vs. them. It is US for THEM. Rev. Kathy Mowry**

**'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40**

I feel I need to be reminded again and again to keep the eye on the prize, to focus on what I am called as a disciple to do. It comes down to thinking about the "other." To look at myself, and how I use the gifts that have been given me. To think about if the "other" has enough, instead of what more do I need. I need to identify who is the "other" in order to "do unto them, what I would like done unto me." The "other" is a family member who is coming out as gay, or a neighbor who is not the neatest or friendliest, however her grandson is not reacting well to Leukemia treatments, or the inner city mom who lost her brother and cousin to gun violence and now is afraid for her children. The "other" is the thousands of people who are human trafficked around the world and the families whose only choice is to move from the home they love in order to get away from abusive governments and violence by trying to find refuge in another country. The "other" is those seeking to die by suicide or children bullied on social media. The "other" is our elderly who are stuck in nursing homes kept from seeing their loved ones. The "other" is students, parents, and teachers. The "other" is protesters and people impacted by violence and systemic racism. The "other" are overworked first responders, medical workers, and police serving their communities. The "other" seems to be a never-ending list.

Now it is up to me to identify the "other" I can help through letters, monetary donations, visits, calls, or by volunteering or joining groups that support and care for the "other." I like to picture a soup kitchen where volunteers are serving the homeless and those volunteers are all ages, all ethnicities, all types of religious or not religious people, community members who identify as LGBTQI, republican, independent, democratic, all socio-economic classes and more. You get the picture..... It wouldn't matter who is serving next to me and helping as long as the "least of these," the struggling, hurting, poor, homeless, terminally ill, or the mentally ill, are helped. It is more difficult to navigate and help the "other" in these covid-19 times, so I need to spend time imagining how to help and then make an action plan and do it.

Maybe you want to join me?

Peace,

Pastor Fred

## Worship Services

On September 13, we returned to in-person worship. It has been so good seeing everyone in person. There have been around 25 people each week which is such a blessing.

If you would like to join us some Sunday you will need to wear a mask & keep 6 ft social distancing. There is no singing done by the congregation. A Cantor sings some hymns from the rear of the church. There is no socializing inside the building. We make sure all surfaces are sanitized and have hand sanitizer in all of the open pews. We are committed to keeping the building as safe as possible to ensure everyone stays healthy.

For those who are not able to attend or do not feel like they are ready to attend in person, we will continue to have the worship service via Zoom, live from the sanctuary at 9:30.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Church Office (716-832-5720) and I will get back to you. Hope to see you at Augustana soon.

-- Paulette Hotchkiss

## October is World Hunger Month at Augustana

***For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35***

On October 4, we will Kick-Off our World Hunger campaign.

For many years, Augustana has collected funds to purchase *Barney's Animals* through ELCA's Good Gifts program.

Due to the circumstances this year regarding COVID-19, there will be World Hunger donation envelopes available on the offering table as you enter church.

Since we will not be gathering at the end of the campaign to choose our animals, please indicate on your offering envelope an animal you would like to contribute toward.

At the end of the campaign, we will tally all the donations and animals you selected on your envelope to determine what animals we will buy.

Thank you in advance for your generous donation.

-- Paula Kerr

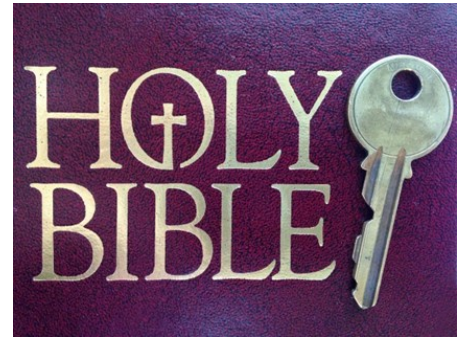
## Building Maintenance Position Available

As of Dec. 31, Gary Hotchkiss has decided to retire from his position as Augustana's Building Maintenance person. We wish him well and thank him for all of his hard work. A job description will be posted on the website soon. If you have questions or would like to apply for the position, email your resume to the church office: [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com).

Daily Devotional books for Oct - Nov - Dec. are available at church and by US-mail.  
If you would like one mailed to you, contact the church office: (716) 832-5720.

## **Bible Study at Augustana / Zoom**

Pastor Kopp will lead a bible study on Fridays from 10 – 11:30 am the topic of “Ten Key Events From the Bible.” It will take place both in person and via Zoom on October 9 & 30, and November 6, 13, 20. (Note that the November dates have been revised.) The in-person will take place in Augustana’s lower level hall. The hall can be accessed with an elevator. Classes are ‘drop-in.’



We will be following Covid protocol and wear masks, keep six feet apart, and have no common food. All are invited and welcome! To receive a Zoom invitation, email Pastor Kopp at [augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com).

## **Bible Study at TOL / Zoom**

Charlie Schmidtke is leading a series of classes on select Mondays at 1:00 pm: 10/19 (Lot’s wife and daughters), 10/26 (Esther and Ruth), 11/9 (Rachel and Leah), 11/23 (Deborah and Naomi), 12/ 7 (Judith and Susanne).

In-person classes will take place at TOL upstairs in the Fireside Lounge.

Classes are ‘drop in;’ pre-registration not needed. Enter the church through the door in front of the elevator. People will be safely distanced. Masks covering mouth and nose are mandatory. There will be a sanitizing station available. Please bring your own bible. Charlie will also be live-Zooming the classes. If you would like to participate by Zoom, email Charlie and he will email you the Zoom link: [schmidtkecharles@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtkecharles@gmail.com).



## **Refugee & Immigrant Driving Ministry**

**Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle to benefit the Refugee and Immigrant Driving program, and for your ongoing support of this ministry.**

## **Volunteers Needed**

Now that we have re-opened and are worshiping in the church, we need weekly volunteers to be Greeters and Zoom coordinators (1 of each per week). Please see Paulette Hotchkiss if you are willing to volunteer for either of these positions.

## **'God's Work. Our Hands.'**

Thank you to everyone who supported our drive-through food pantry drive on Sept. 19 for the Community of Good Neighbors Food Pantry in Buffalo. It was this year's project for the ELCA national day of service, 'God's Work. Our Hands.' The donations filled two cars! Thank you also to Pastor Miranda Hammer, director of the Community of Good Neighbors Food Pantry, pictured at right, who stopped by to support the drive.



### **Stewardship**

Stewardship letters and pledge forms have been US-mailed. If you did not receive a pledge mailing and you would like one, please contact the church office:  
(716) 832-5720 / [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com) .



### **Worship on Cable TV**

Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV Channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Pastors Beigner and Smith lead this worship. You can find previous sermons at <https://stpaulseggertsville.org/past-sermon-videos/> .

### **Offering**

Thank you for your offerings and donations. You can place your offering in the offering plate in the narthex. if you attend worship in person, or US-mail your offering to church, or give online through Tithe.ly.  
(For information on Tithe.ly, see our website: [augustanaonline.org](http://augustanaonline.org).)

## **Augustana Lutheran Church**

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