
AUGUSTANA NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Pastor's Ponderings:

"An account of the genealogy of "Jesus the Messiah," the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac,...and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah." Matthew 1:1, 16

We are preparing for our Lord Jesus Christ's Celebration of Birth. God's incarnation as a human. The date December 25th is probably not Jesus' true Birthday; however the birth, life and death chronicled in the Gospels and in Matthew Gospel we see Jesus lineage and the reality of his presence on earth.

Anne and I like to watch "Finding your Roots" with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. It is fascinating to learn the twists and turns of people's family tree and the creative way in which information about a family tree is discovered. Ancestors of the people on the show come from as diverse a background as criminals to kings. The stories range from public and notorious, to private and humble.

Jesus has a dynamic and different origin story as told by the genealogy found in the first chapter of Matthew. Intrigue and interesting stories accompany many of Jesus' ancestors. We see power, pride, sin, and shame in many of these stories. Jesus' fully human part is just that, human. Yet what else does this genealogy show us? That God interacted with Jesus' ancestors and finally when it was needed God made Godself known in Jesus.

It is comforting to me that Jesus' human roots were both ordinary and extraordinary and through all the generations God was present. This Advent season God is present with us and was with our ancestors and God desires us to make this known. We make this known by being consistent with what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our actions surrounding Christmas and by reflecting Jesus' ministry of Grace, Forgiveness, Salvation, and Hope in the actions and words we make known to others. In other words, Jesus is the reason for season and we are to reflect this in our lives.

God was, is, and will be. Jesus was, is and will be. And I declare, our life was with Christ, is with Christ, and will be with Christ. Come, Immanuel, Come!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred

MISSION STATEMENT

Augustana is a Christian family in faith that prays together to KNOW CHRIST and works to MAKE CHRIST KNOWN throughout the community.

Santa Lucia:

This year the Santa Lucia pageant will be on SATURDAY, Dec. 14 at 7:00 pm.

The pageant is presented mainly by children and teens. Refreshments follow the pageant, so bakers are needed to make desserts that are easy to serve, such as cookies and bars. Also needed are people to set up and clean up the refreshments, and someone to oversee the refreshment team and start the coffee, set the table, etc. Please let Donna Bartkowski know if you can help out. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Service

All are invited to our Christmas Eve service at 4:30 pm. It will be a candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, with communion. Children are invited to participate in the no-rehearsal mini Christmas pageant (please try to arrive a few minutes early so the children can choose costumes.) Please tell your friends, relatives, and neighbors about this special family-friendly worship service. See Donna Bartkowski if you have questions or would like to help.

Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

3143 Eggert Road

Tonawanda, New York 14150

716-832-5720

<http://WWW.augustanaonline.org>

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Weekly Communion

Pastor Fred Kopp 984-8541

Update on Financial Shortfall - Thank you everyone for your contribution to the Financial Shortfall. We have made great progress. As of October 31, 2019 we still have a deficit of **\$2,734.25**. Any contribution you can make would be a great help. If you have any questions please see Paulette Hotchkiss or Paul Kennedy

Do you have life insurance or Annuity Contracts with Thrivent Financial? You may be eligible to direct “Thrivent Choice” dollars to Augustana. Thrivent requires that Thrivent Choice directives be renewed annually. Information concerning eligibility and how to direct “Thrivent Choice” dollars is on the table in the narthex or see Gary Kerr for more information.

Sociable Events- Holiday Lunch –
Church members and friends are welcome at all events

Date: December 17, 2019
Time: 11:30 am Church Parking Lot
Where: Pane’s Restaurant
984 Payne Avenue
N. Tonawanda, 14120
Information: Joan Heath 694-3908

Advent Bible Study

Led by Pastor Fred Kopp at Augustana Lutheran Church. Fridays 10:00 – 11:30.
December 6-20 (3 weeks)

“Grace and Grieving” is the topic of our next TABLE TALK at TOL. December 11, 2019

6:30-8:00 p.m. Table talk is a gathering of people who are interested in listening and sharing ideas and concerns in a safe environment. Pastor Fred Kopp and Dr. Charles Schmidtke lead this time at Trinity Old Lutheran on one Wednesday evening each month. Topics are reviewed by the group and can vary from discussing faith and science to mental health, sin to capital punishment and much more. All are invited and welcome. Wine, coffee, and refreshments will be served. Upcoming dates are January 8, February 12, April 8, and May 13.

Cold Weather Gear

We will be collecting warm clothing for Friends of the Night People again through December. Hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, socks, sweat shirts, etc. for children and adults. Collection box is in the narthex. Questions, see Clare Hotchkiss.