



## Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 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

We are coming to the end of Lent and hopefully to the continuation of what we have started in our spiritual lives, in our Covid protecting life, (masks, social distancing, vaccinations), and in the new creation life as Jesus promises from the cross. This journey we are on and of which we pursue, is living, failing, and rising again in the arms of Jesus' forgiveness, grace, and presence.

In a devotion I read recently they quoted a film star in the 1920's, Mary Pickford, saying, "This thing we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down."

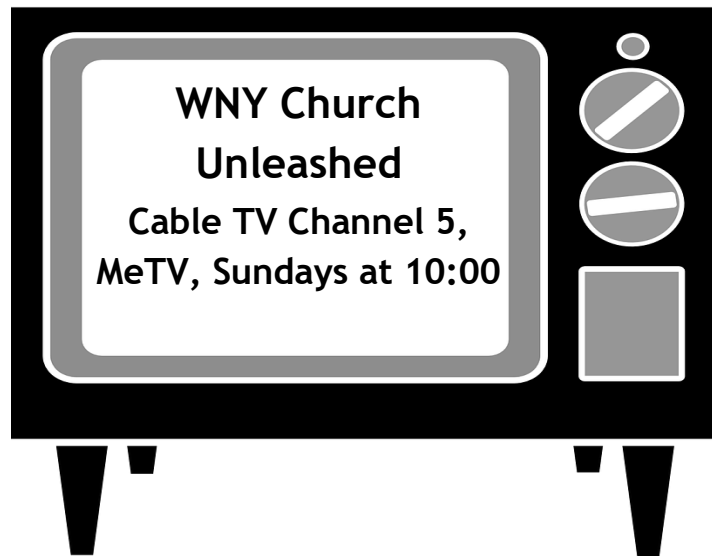
Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar, author, and explorer of the enneagram, wrote a book I am reading called, Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. In this book, he explores the need to use all our life's successes and challenges not to stay the course, but to change, grow, live, and serve. He sees us in times of failure and despair needing to "fall upward." It encourages the journey of becoming whole and healthy while benefiting ourselves and others selflessly. It is through the work of living and engaging in the challenges of life that lead us to a place and ability to be there for others in their challenges and for ourselves.

Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead so that we might have a pathway in which we can die to sin and rise again. It is not a onetime event for we humans, but a daily event of descending and ascending in Christ. The quest in Lent, the disciplines of Lent, prayer, generosity, self-reflection is to move to a place in which our spirituality connects us to the new meanings, solid values, and to a reassuring awareness of God presence. The journey has no end, but with God, our community, and the knowledge from others who have journeyed before us, we are fully supplied to meet life with energy and to live life to the fullest.

May God Bless your falling and rising in Christ,

Pastor Fred

# April Outreach Focus



During the pandemic, when we were not able to worship together in person, Augustana started 'Zooming' the worship service. For some Augustana members, this was not the best way to experience worship, and instead they began watching 'WNY Church Unleashed,' which is a Lutheran worship service produced by the pastors of 3 local ELCA churches: Jeremiah Smith of Parkside Lutheran, Julius Carroll of Zion Lutheran in Clarence, and Steve Beigner of St. Paul's Eggertsville. Pastor Kopp also participated in this by broadcasting a service from TOL on May 10, 2020. We are happy that these pastors bring Lutheran worship to people all over WNY.

Here is the story behind WNY Church Unleashed, as written by Pastor Smith of Parkside:

*"When the Pandemic started and in-person worship was suspended, Parkside began to dream how we could continue to reach people with the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We knew online worship would not work for our some of our members, so we began exploring the possibility of broadcasting a shortened version of our service on television. We soon partnered with St. Paul's Eggertsville and Zion Lutheran in Clarence Center. Together with WBBZ TV, Western New York's local MeTV affiliate, we began offering services on March 15, 2020. This ministry was created in a single week and is completely supported by the generosity of our viewers. We have heard from people as far away as Olean, Jamestown, Lockport, and all over Western New York....Thanks to all our supporters who make this ministry possible."*

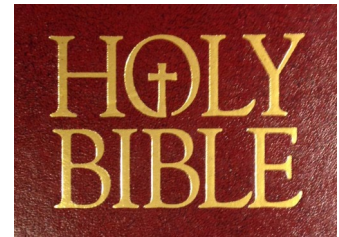
Check out previous services here: <https://www.youtube.com/ParksideLutheran>

Or follow these links:

**Facebook** [WNY Church Unleashed Facebook](#)     **Youtube** [WNY Church Unleashed Youtube](#)

**If you would like to support this ministry, you** can write a check to Augustana (write Lutheran TV or WNY Church Unleashed in the memo portion) and then either mail it to Augustana, or put it in the offering plate at church, or you can donate via Tithe.ly. Thank you!

# BIBLE STUDIES



## Pastor Fred's Bible Study

Explore Joshua "One of the Bible's greatest testimonies to the mighty acts of God on behalf of Israel."

Pastor Fred will lead an eight-week Bible study on Fridays, beginning April 9, 2021.

The Bible study is from 10:00 -11:30 and will meet at Augustana and via Zoom. If you would like a Zoom invitation email Pastor at [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com) or call the church office at (716) 832-5720. We look forward to seeing you in person or on zoom.

Each session of study stands on its own, so come to one or all.

We require that you wear a mask and maintain distancing.

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## Charlie Schmidtke's Bible Study: In-Person and Zoom

The meetings take place Mondays at 1:00 pm both at TOL (in the Fireside Room) and via Zoom.

If you go to the in-person class, you will need to wear a mask, maintain distancing, and have your own bible.

Class schedule: 4/12 (Women at Pentecost), 4/26 (Lydia and Priscilla), 5/10 (TBD).

To participate, email Charlie and he will email you the Zoom link: [schmidtkecharles@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtkecharles@gmail.com), or you can attend the in-person classes without preregistering.

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The re-opening committee is looking for volunteers to do the following:

1. Greeter – greets attendees and takes attendance.
2. Set up the Laptop, iPad and TV for Zoom. Need to be at church at 8:15am.
3. Lock up the Church which entails turning off lights, closing windows and locking office and outside doors.

Please see Paulette Hotchkiss if you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions, or contact her through the church office:

(716) 832-5720 / [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com) .

Any help you can give us would be great. Thank you.

## Upstate NY Synod Mission Interpreter, Marcia Brown

A Mission Interpreter informs congregations about the impact of the ELCA's missions and activities, which are made possible by the donations of congregations. Every month, Ms. Brown writes an article about an impact that your donations make in the world. This is her article for April.

### RESURRECTION PEOPLE

An old motto of our Synod was, "We are resurrection people who pray first, walk together, and change lives." What are resurrection people? Since Jesus was raised and did not stay in the tomb, so are we resurrected. Our faith is not dead, dormant, or sleeping, but is alive in this world and active to help others. For the past year, some local outreach has had to be curtailed because of the pandemic, but the mission of the Church goes on, with even greater need. Our larger ELCA church body continues to sponsor missionaries, feed the hungry, assist those affected by disasters, open new congregations, and so much more. Through your mission support, resurrection life is experienced all over the world:

In **Peru**, Noemi persisted despite many challenges growing up. Then, she discovered an ELCA companion ministry which trains vulnerable people in tolerance, respect, equity, and social justice.

At **Bridge of Peace Community Church in New Jersey**, a food pantry has adjusted its routine to account for the pandemic, while drastically increasing the number of people it serves.

In **Serbia**, many Roma people are returning from migration. When the Salijevski family returned, they were homeless until they connected with Children on the Move, which aims to reduce the number of people living on the street, and ensures that children have access to education.

In **Milwaukee**, the Strong Baby Program raises awareness about safe infant sleeping practices to reduce infant mortality, which is three times higher in African-American babies.

In **Tanzania**, Eva got essential support from a palliative care program when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. 25 facilities across the country accompany people facing medical issues.

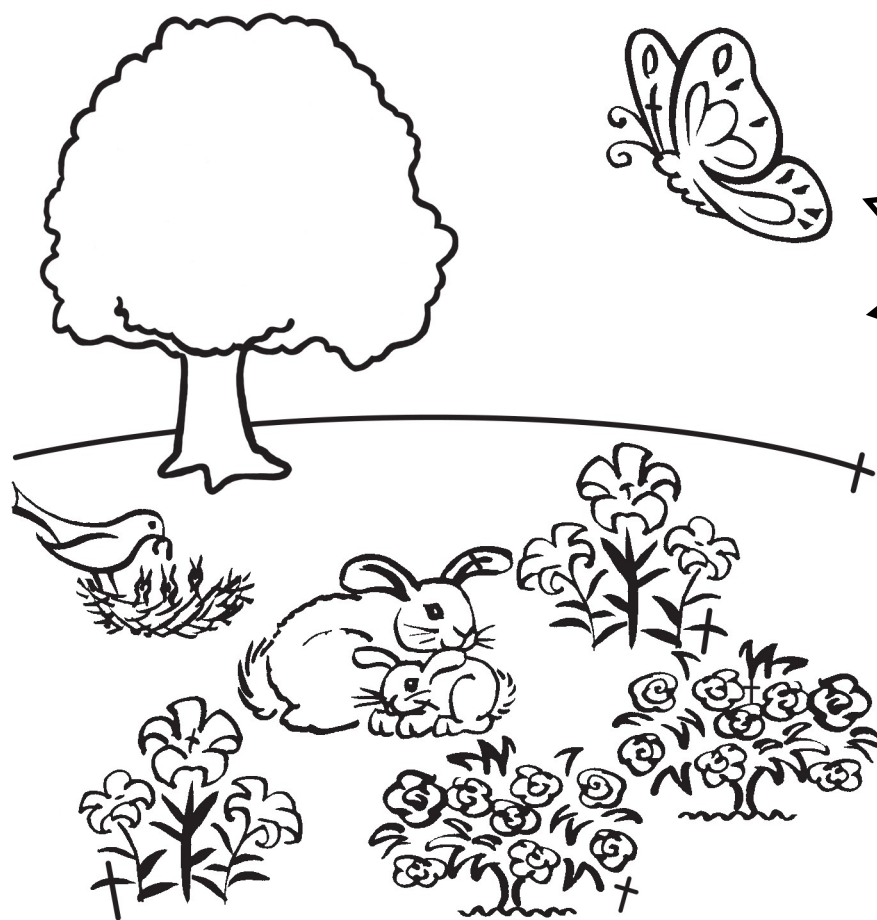
In **Chile**, Maggie shares information about health topics through workshops and community events, and herself learned how to cultivate a vegetable garden in her tiny yard.

In the **US**, newcomers like Tamara, who escaped poverty and violence in Haiti, receive shelter, food, help with travel, legal services, and connection to essential lifelines.

When you feel the joy of Jesus' resurrection this Easter, know that you are also bringing resurrection to so many others through your mission support. **Thank you!**

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.



# KIDS' PAGE

Seek and Find !  
Spring is a time of  
new life. Finish and  
color the spring  
scene. How many  
crosses can you find  
hidden in the  
picture?

Jesus shared peace with  
his disciples. We share  
peace with each other  
during worship. You can  
share the peace by  
signing the words  
'Peace be with you.'  
Try it during worship!



**PEACE**



**BE**



**WITH**



**YOU**

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Thursday, April 15      Council Meeting, 7:00 pm Hybrid: in person at church and via Zoom  
Fridays 10—11:30      Pastor Fred's Bible Study at Augustana + Zoom, April 9 - May 28  
Mondays at 1:00      Charlie Schmidtke's Bible Study at TOL + Zoom: 4/12, 4/25, 5/10

## TOL Quilters



The group made quilts between September 2019 and March 4, 2020. Because of COVID-19, they were not collected by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for overseas distribution. However, there was a need in our area for the quilts and we donated 12 to Hospice Buffalo in Cheektowaga and 10 to Park Creek Senior Living Community in Williamsville. One was given to Grace (TOL) and another one to Joan (from Augustana).

Thank you to all of the quilters who helped during last year: from TOL—Carol P and Barb M; from Augustana LC—Barb C, Marge J, Nora P and Joan H.

And thank you to Judy M for delivering the quilts! Judy said that both organizations were extremely happy for the quilts and that she has received many thank you cards.

## *Blessing*

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son ☩ and Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with us this day and always. Amen.

William Sloane Coffin, 1924-2006, attributed to *Credo* © 2004 by Westminster John Knox Press  
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## Augustana Lutheran Church

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