



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER October 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

**"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."**

Psalm 121:1-2

During our vacation in Montana, not only did we soak up our grandson Felix, his parents, Nate and Julia, and spend time with Bekah and Yogi, we visited Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild Park. This Park included a dozen sculptures that helped the visitor connect to the wildness and beauty of Big Sky country.

One sculpture, by Alison Sigora, stood out to us, called "Clearing." This Sculpture looked like a large nest, the outside was created of burnt wood logs. (in Montana, like the rest of the west, wildfires are a part life.) The diameter and height were more than 12 feet. It was imposing and seemingly unwelcoming until one entered it through a door that brought one to a space where smooth native wood planks lined the whole inside, and a bench was attached to the curved walls. In this space one left the unpredictable and sometimes harsh world behind, and one entered a sanctuary of sorts, with the only connection to the outside being, at that time, the blue skies of Montana.

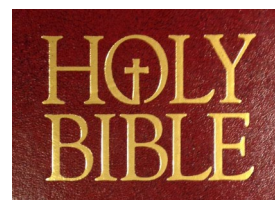
Jesus went away alone to pray and at these times he connected to God and found direction and help. Sometimes we need a space or a time to shelve our troubles for a moment and connect with each other, with nature, and with God. Autumn is a good time to do this. We can marvel at the colors in God's creation, spend time with family and friends, and look to the hills to be with God. As we look to God we can be encouraged that God loves us and is there for us during times of suffering and pain. May this season be a time of renewal and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

Bible Study

Pastor Fred's current Bible Study is on 1st Peter,
a 'triumphant conviction of faith.'



This 6-week Bible study on 1st Peter meets on Fridays, 10 -11:30 am at Augustana on October 8, 15, 22. A Zoom invite will be offered for those who cannot attend in person. Email Pastor Fred for a Zoom invite (augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com). You can participate in any weeks that fit your schedule. Hope to see you there!

Cancer Support Group

Linda Sokoley is working with Pastor to develop a cancer support group.
Details about this valuable resource will be announced soon.

Also, a thank you to Linda for all the support she gives to others by sending cards and making calls to people in need.

Outreach: God's Work. Our Hands

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE



Drive-through.
Wear a mask!



SATURDAY
OCT. 16
10-2

We are having a Food Drive for the **Community of Good Neighbors Food Pantry**. You can bring in non-perishables every week to church. Then, on Saturday October 16 from 10 -2, we will have a Drive-Through Food Drive for the congregation and the community to donate non-perishable items. This is our project for "God's Work. Our Hands." Talk to Paula Kerr if you can help out with this project in any way. Thank you!

ELCA World Hunger Fund Drive

Our annual World Hunger Fund collection begins 10/3 and continues through Thanksgiving.
Additional details will be posted in the weekly bulletin.

Stewardship Drive: The Way of Love

Watch your mailbox for this year's stewardship campaign letter and pledge card. Through your pledge you can show your love and support for Augustana. Pledge cards will be due by Nov. 7. so that we can formulate a budget for 2022. Any questions see Paulette Hotchkiss or call the church office and she will get back to you.

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Ministry

On The Road Report Update - October 2021

By Paul Kennedy

I am working with all of the refugee agencies in Buffalo as they make preparations for the arrival of refugees and immigrants that they will be assisting.

I have applied for a grant of \$9,000 from Lutheran Charities for 2022.
(This is the same funding level as for 2021).

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. Some individuals who started driving lessons this year have now passed their road test and have obtained their driver's license. Congratulations!

Service to others is life-affirming.

We engage in service as an expression of gratitude to a gracious God.

World Hunger: How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter for the Upstate New York Synod

Most everything has been harvested from the vegetable garden by now. But in the southern hemisphere, it is spring and time for planting. In Chile, Maria Carrasco has worked since 1985 with a program, founded in 1982 by an ELCA missionary, called Educacion Popular en Salud (EPES). Supported by ELCA World Hunger, EPES trains students, public officials, health and education workers, and women from vulnerable communities to advocate for the rights to health care and sustainable food. As a response to Covid-19, EPES proposed to start community gardening workshops online. The problem is, in Maria's neighborhood, there are very few green spaces for gardening. But she learned how to improve soil quality and reduce waste by composting, and to work with natural light and the space she had. Soon, arugula, chard, and spinach were growing in the 6-foot walkway to her front door. In Chile, as in many other countries, people experiencing poverty are especially vulnerable to illnesses caused by poor nutrition. Add to this the pandemic, and food has become expensive and difficult to access. Cultivating community gardens gives families greater autonomy and assures them access to fresh produce. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make all this possible. ***Thank you!***

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT AUGUSTANA

Drive-Through Food Drive: Saturday, Oct. 16. See Paula Kerr (and page 2 of this newsletter) if you would like to help out.

Coffee Hour: We need people to host coffee hours on 11/7, 11/21, 12/5 and 12/19. See Paulette if you have questions.

Property Task: See Lance before Oct. 15 if you can apply tape to stairs. He will give you directions and materials. (Work does not have to be done by Oct. 15.)

Help prepare for the weekly service: People are needed to fill the wine cups and chalice, place communion wafers on plate and in cup, check oil / refill oil in candles next to altar, light eternal candle, check for flowers, set up flower stands as needed, dust altar area. Additional duties can be added as the church season changes. Volunteer sign up will be for one month at a time. See **Nora** or contact her if you are interested or have questions: 430-7422 / nora.pomplun@gmail.com / Thank you for giving this prayerful consideration.

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.

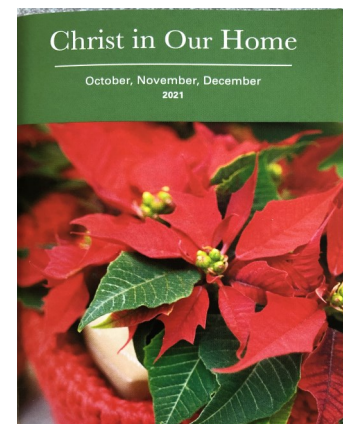
Building Care: Lock up the church office and outside doors, turn off lights.

Please see **Lance Scarafia** if you are interested in volunteering for any of these 3 positions, or contact him: **(716) 970-0170/ ministeraugustana@yahoo.com** .

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



The daily devotional for October through December is now available., as is the October—November issue of Happy Times for children. You can pick up copies in church, or we would gladly mail you one or both. Just contact the church office.



What's Happening at Trinity Old Lutheran (TOL)

Adult Ed Classes – Fall 2021: Did you always want to learn more about other world religions? The Fall Adult Ed classes will help us learn about world religions. Classes are held **Mondays at 1 pm**, in the Fireside Lounge and on Zoom. Oct. 4, 11, 18: Buddhism Nov. 8, 15, 22: Daoism

Table Talk: This **Wednesday, Oct. 6** at 6:30 pm, please join us for a bi-weekly discussion group. We will use Charlie Schmidtke's new book, "My I's," as a resource for the topics, however, reading the book is not a pre-requisite for attending. The next topic of discussion will be "Gender Differences and Our Misunderstandings."

Food Truck: If you're looking for a day off from cooking, come to TOL's parking lot on Thursdays from 3 - 6 pm. Big Mike's Uptown BBQ will be serving take-out dinners; each week they have a little different menu - but there is usually pulled pork with 2 sides, chicken with 2 sides, and chicken corn chowder. Thanks!

3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226
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No-Cost Family Event at Great Pumpkin Farm:

Saturday, October 23 from 1:00 – 5:00



Lutheran Youth WNY (LYWNY) is sponsoring an event for youth and their families at the Great Pumpkin Farm in Clarence. **LYWNY will pay for the cost of admission and give \$20 to each person attending for the cost of games, rides, and food!** There are scheduled activities (Arrive at 1, greetings and opening prayer at 1:15, explore activities on your own, devotionals in the maze at 3:40, followed by more food, games and fun.) Must wear a mask. Can invite friends and family. (Must register online: https://lutheranyouthwny.formstack.com/formsgreatpumpkinfarm_registration).

Lutheran Charities Event Crafty Brew Bash, Oct. 14 5:30 to 8:30

Resurgence Brewing Company 55 Chicago St, Buffalo 14204

\$35 per person (includes 2 drink tickets +hors d'oeuvres)

Register at wnylutherancharities.org Call (716) 652-2625

or email: info@wnylutherancharities.org

Dates to Remember

Oct. 8, 15, 22: Bible Study, 10-11:30 at Augustana

Saturday, Oct. 16: Drive-Through Food Drive, 10—2

Oct. 21 at 7:00 pm (Zoom): Augustana Church Council Meeting

Keeping Up with the News

3 area churches send us their monthly newsletters: TOL (Trinity Old Lutheran), St. John's in Elma and Abiding Savior in North Tonawanda. Previously we hung them on the bulletin board for everyone to read, but we changed that due to Covid. If you would like a scanned copy emailed to you every month, contact the church office and we would be happy to send them 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. You can find previous services at <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/> or on YouTube (search for WNY Church Unleashed.) Look for Pastor's worship service that he conducted on Sept. 26.

Current Masking Recommendations

by Paulette Hotchkiss

Due to the rise in Covid and the Delta variant, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask while in the church, even those who are fully vaccinated.

During coffee hour, please wear a mask except when you are seated at a table.

We understand that getting vaccinated and wearing masks are personal decisions, and we ask everyone to be respectful and nonjudgmental about the decisions of others.

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.

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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Pastor Fred Kopp: (716) 984-8541 / augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com

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