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# AUGUSTANA NEWSLETTER

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September 2019

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## **Pastor's Ponderings:**

I recently attended a coach training session in Baltimore, MD. This conference was held at Christ Lutheran Church. On its campus the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has its office. At the office I was able to get a button that states "Welcome the Stranger" Matthew 25, and a sticker that says "Jesus was a Refugee." (remember Herod was trying to kill them and Joseph, Mary and Jesus left their home and went to Egypt)

The Bible is clear that it is our duty to help the refugee. The Bible is clear that no country is ordained to be "the" country. All countries are filled with special children of God; so it is imperative that we stand for those who are unfortunate to be in danger in their country of origin. It is imperative that we provide relief, shelter and hope. I stand with the Immigrant and Refugee.

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."  
1 John 3:18

"Mark of a true Christian:"...Extend hospitality to strangers..." Romans 12:13

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:31-46  
Verse upon verse in the Old Testament also points to the duty of those who believe in God to care for the refugee and immigrant: "...do not deprive a resident alien... of justice." Deut. 24:17-18, "you shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien," Exodus 22:21, and "The Lord watches over the strangers." Psalm 146:9

Paul Kennedy, director for the Refugee and Immigrant Driving program at Augustana, shared a concern with me. He stated that a number of people who are in the country legally, have the correct papers, and have gone through the training for getting a driver's license are afraid, and will not pursue this important skill and opportunity. This is tragic because a license helps them be productive, drive to jobs, fulfill the requirements of the government for establishing United States as their residence, they are afraid. These and other aliens have shared of the horror happening in their own countries, and it is not safe for women, children and families to live normal lives. Violence, intimidation, and oppression are rampant.

Let us pray, welcome, and help the United States address this humanitarian situation with a safe, dignified way for people to assimilate into our culture. In the not so distant past, many of our descendants were welcomed at Ellis Island.

With a heavy heart, and strong motivation, I write this letter to share a part of the challenge people face.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Fred Kopp

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**Bible Study at Augustana:** Fridays from 10 - 11:30 am, Sept. 13, 20, 27 and Oct. 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians – 'Being the Body of Christ'



## **CHILI SALE: Saturday,**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** Flyers will be on the table of the Narthex. Please take one, two, or a few and help us advertise our fundraiser in strategic places. Although the CHILI SALE is the main event, we will also have a smaller scale (Homemade only) baked goods sale. There will be a pre-order form on the table in the Narthex.

**Feel free to order your CHILI in advance.** Thank you in advance for your help in making this a big success! Paula Kerr

**Sunday School News:** . Sunday School resumes September 15. The kids have a lot of fun while learning about the bible and what it means to be a child of God. We invite you to tell others about Sunday School at Augustana: It is for ages 3 and up, at 10:30 weekly for 30 minutes. Ask Donna Bartkowski if you have additional questions.

## **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**

**The Vender family continues to grow!** Pastor Vender and Harriet welcomed another grandchild on July 24th. Josh & Julie named their little girl Sloane Rosemary Vender. Rosemary is Julie's grandmother's name. Their son Brooks just turned 2 on July 30th.

### **SOCIABLES EVENTS**

**September 24th-** Lunch at Amherst Buffet, 1551 Niagara Blvd. Leaving Church parking lot at 11:30am. Church members and friends are welcome to come.

**October-** Trip to Jello Museum at Leroy, NY. Lunch will be at the D & R Depot restaurant. The date and time as not been determined. Look in next month newsletter and future bulletins for the date.

Contact Joan Heath 694-3908 or Paul Kennedy 228-3091 if you have any questions.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Our annual workday at Habitat for Humanity is Saturday, Sept. 28. We are doing this work day as part of the national ELCA 'God's Work. Our Hands' day of service, and we are inviting 4 other churches to work with us: TOL, St. Mark, Good Shepherd and Abiding Savior. This year we have one work site that can accept 10 volunteers. You have to be on the work site at 8:45 for a 9:00 sharp start time, and the day ends at about 3:00. How to volunteer: The first 10 people total who contact Donna Bartkowski by email (preferred: [dmbton@gmail.com](mailto:dmbton@gmail.com)) or phone (425-7870 - cell) will be given additional details on how to register and the address of the house we will be working on. Note that the Habitat volunteer process is quite thorough and you need to register online ahead of time in order to volunteer - you cannot just go to the work site. Please ask Donna if you have any questions. Thank you!

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**TOL's Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner and Theme Basket Raffle:** This year's fund raising event will be held on **Sunday, Sept. 8!**

**Walk to End Alzheimer's:** Join *Team TOL* on **Saturday, September 14!** Details will be available soon!

**Human Sexuality Study:** A few years ago the Synod conducted a training program for church leaders, using the ELCA study guide for congregational programs. Charlie Schmidtke received this training and will lead discussions here at TOL on **Wednesday evenings** in the Fall. All are welcome to join us on **Sept. 18 and 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, and 23**. Each session starts at **6:30 pm**. Come to any or all sessions, and bring a friend or spouse if you'd like!

**Adult Ed:** There were many gospels and other writings not included in the Bible, but were familiar to Jesus' followers in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. This fall we'll continue examining these and what they mean for us today. Join us on the following **Mondays at 1 pm** in the Fireside Lounge:

**Sept. 23 and 30**      The Gospel According to Thomas

**Oct. 7 and 28**      The Gospel According to Mary

**Nov. 4 and**          The Book of Q

**Dec. 2**              The Gospel of Truth

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**TOL Adult Retreat at LCLC:** This year's retreat will be held the weekend of **October 4 - 6**, and the theme is "What's Next? Here and Now / There and Then." All the information is posted on the main bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Charlie Schmidtke.