



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JANUARY—FEBRUARY 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

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.' Matthew 7:12

'Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.' Philippians 2:3

Respect and Love are very close together and we are commanded by Jesus to do both. So, as we enter February, the month that contains Ash Wednesday and Valentines Day, I am brought to ponder what is love, what is respect, and how to humbly live with God and God's people. I am not immune to the desire to have it my way, or to think another's way is wrong. I struggle with being outward looking and acting in my thoughts, words, and deeds. I wonder, am I in my actions helping others to be better, hopeful, welcomed, or loved? Do the leaders, the people I look up to, and the community of which I am a part have that selfless attitude? This month I ask myself, am I acting respectful to others through all that is God's, myself and my possessions. If it is not of God, I am commanded to shed it, to begin again and again, as I move to a more sacrificial life.

I have enjoyed the Marvel comic movies. I especially liked the Black Panther movie. Black Panther was played by the late Chadwick Boseman. One of his quotes is "The only difference between a hero and the villain is that the villain chooses to use that power in a way that is selfish and hurts other people."

It is not easy being a hero or even just a decent human being, yet we pray weekly in our confession and ask God to forgive those actions we know and do not know of that harm the other, and we pray for forgiveness and to begin again in our relationship to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that Jesus is our "All in All," and with Christ we are more than something, we are special. I pray that our month is used to bring love and respect into our relationships with family, friends and each other and that love and respect is a driving force in our faith relationship with Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred Kopp

Outreach

by Paula Kerr

Outreach during COVID-19 presents challenges. Although it may cause us to change the way we do Outreach, as a church we remain focused on helping people in need.



Money for Mittens: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Mittens fund. Collecting \$425 is tremendous and will make a great impact for the people served by the Community of Good Neighbors.

'SOUPER' Bowl Sunday!

We are having a short collection of funds for food for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry, starting on Jan. 31 and ending on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 7). Thank you to all who help those in need of food in our local community.



Our February Outreach focus: Ken Ton Closet

The mission of the Ken-Ton Closet is to directly improve the quality of life for children ages 0-18 years living in the Village of Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda whose families have economic need. The Closet provides, at no cost, items of daily living such as clothing, school supplies, toiletries, and other materials. It is a grassroots, 100% volunteer-run program. They also distribute needed items to families experiencing difficulties such as fire losses or emergency foster placement.

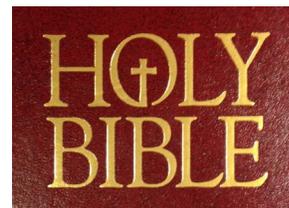
The Closet is located in the former Jefferson School (250 Athens Blvd). Families can come in every other month to receive toiletries, 3 - 4 outfits, shoes, and new socks/underwear.

How to give help: We are collecting money to give to KenTon Closet through the end of February. You can write a check to Augustana, write 'KenTon Closet' in the memo portion and mail it to Augustana, or you can donate via Tithe.ly. Thank you!

How to receive help: Due to COVID-19, parents need to go to the website to register and schedule a time slot for shopping. The store is closed for general shopping.

Ken Ton Closet website: www.kentoncloset.org

BIBLE STUDIES



Pastor Fred's Zoom Bible Study

Pastor Fred leads Bible Studies regularly on Fridays from 10:00 – 11:30 am.

The current Bible Study is on the Book of Acts.

If you would like to be on Pastor's Bible Study email list, email him and he will send you Zoom invites for upcoming sessions: augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com.

Remember that you can also listen in on the Bible Studies using any type of phone including a landline. Call the church office and we will give you details.

Charlie Schmidtke's Zoom Bible Study

Charlie is leading a Bible Study on Mondays at 1:00 pm:

2/8 (Mary and Elizabeth), 2/22 (Mary and Martha), 3/8 (Women disciples), 3/22 (Women on Easter morning), 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.

Worship



We continue to monitor the COVID situation in our community and will let you know when there is a change in Augustana's worship style.

Paulette Hotchkiss, Re-opening Committee Chairman

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday, February 17.

Pastor Fred will lead worship services at 11 am and 7 pm via Zoom, and the congregations of both Augustana and TOL are invited to both.

Walking Together Through Lent: *Praying Our Way Through the Psalms*

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:15PM Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Offered by the Upstate New York Synod for anyone who might need a time of intentional community and prayer during the season of Lent

We will move through the Psalms, noticing the space for mourning to dancing and everything in between. At 7:00, we will gather as a large group to pray and set the intention for the time together. Then, we will have small group sharing and conversation. At the end of the evening we will join together again as a large group for prayer as we depart the sacred space.

ZOOM LINK, Meeting ID and Passcode FOR EVERY WEEK:

Meeting ID: 853 6624 2538 Passcode: 533797

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85366242538?pwd=bXdjNmR6MINMakRpbUpLM0JoUW5udz09>

One tap mobile +19292056099,, 85366242538#,,,, *533797# US (New York)

Upstate NY Synod Mission Interpreter, Marcia Brown

The role of a Mission Interpreter is to tell 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 February.

DROUGHT IN CAMBODIA

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response helped La Phat stay in her home. She is a community leader in a village in Cambodia which is experiencing drought. The rice paddies have dried up, and there is not enough rain to support the corn, green bean, and sesame seed crops. Many left the village for cities to find work to support their families, but she had a better idea.

Working with longtime ELCA partner Life With Dignity, La Phat and members of the community designed training programs in risk mitigation, advocacy, alternative livelihood opportunities, and more. They dug ponds and obtained 20 plastic tanks to capture the little rain they do get. Five new wells are being constructed, and two old ones repaired. "We now have hope in this new venture."

Lutheran Disaster Response works all over the world to assist people after hurricanes and earthquakes, and during chronic problems such as drought and health crises.

100% of donations go to the response effort, because overhead is paid for by the ELCA.

Thank you! - Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter (Upstate NY Synod)

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

Participate in a Conversation about Upstate New York Synod Values and Priorities

from Pastor Lori Kochanski, Assistant to the Bishop

This year we will be calling a bishop to serve as the leader of this synod.

We will expect the bishop to bring their own ideas and plans, dreams and visions. It will also be important that we can provide a collection of voices and thoughts to the process.

Every member of the synod is invited into conversation about the values and priorities of our work together. We will do this through listening events and/or submitting answers to an electronic survey.

At each listening event there will be a time for open conversation with some core questions to frame the time of conversation and reflection.

The responses from each of the forums and the written form will be made available in mid-March. They may be used to help a candidate for bishop in personal discernment. They may also help the current leaders of the synod in their work.

Please consider participating in the conversation via the **listening event** or the **survey**.

Schedule for Listening Events:

FOR ROSTERED LEADERS ONLY (choose 1): February 1, 10am or 7PM; February 25, 10am

FOR LAY PEOPLE ONLY (choose 1): February 10, 7pm; February 16, 10am

Go [HERE](#) to read more and sign up: [Values and Priorities Listening Event and Survey](#)

Learn more about the ELCA and the Upstate NY Synod:

<https://www.elca.org>

<https://upstatenysynod.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/upstatenysynod>

2020 Year- End Financial Update

By Paulette Hotchkiss, Council Finance Chairperson

We had an AWESOME 2020. Our finances broke even so we had no deficit as of December 31, 2020.

This was partially due to the PPP Government Loan that paid Augustana's salaries for 3 months. (We are going to apply for forgiveness of this loan.) But it was also because the people at Augustana Church are amazing and stepped up when we asked for extra contributions to cover the deficit.

It always amazes me how willing people are to help their Church. Thank you for all you continue to do for our Church. We have proved that together we can work wonders.

Please continue to give your donation as you are able either through Tithe.ly, or by mailing your contribution to the church. (For information on Tithe.ly, see our website: augustanaonline.org.)

If you have any questions please talk to Paul Kennedy or myself and we would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

2021 Offering Envelopes

Please remember to use the provided 'Initial Offering' envelope to help offset the cost of the envelopes.

Thank you!

Did you know...**you can return your bottles and cans** to the Bottle and Can Retrieval Center at 1942 Colvin (corner of Brighton) and tell them to give the money to Augustana? They mail us checks regularly.

If you have questions for the company, you can call them at 834-1111 or check their website: bottleandcanrc.com .



Thank you to **Amy Schintzius** (Clarence Peterson's daughter) for giving Augustana half of the proceeds from her 'Dad's Memorial Football Pool.'

Amy learned of our budgeted 2021 deficit and wanted to help out.

We are grateful to Amy for her thoughtfulness!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday, worship services via Zoom at 11 am and 7 pm
Thursday, Feb. 18 Council Meeting, 7:00 pm via Zoom
Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 4: Easter

Invite a friend to Worship with us!

Pastor Kopp leads us in a vibrant worship service each week. And we are growing! We sometimes have more people participating weekly via Zoom than we used to have on an average Sunday when we worshiped in the church- because our online congregation is now made up of not only people in WNY, but also people who live in other states, and even in another country! We welcome new people every week, so think about who you can invite to 'Zoom' with us, and share this information with them.

The congregation can log on starting at 9:00 am. This is a time when people can talk to each other if they like—our updated version of 'coffee (half) hour.' You choose whether to keep your video screen on or off during this time and during the service. At 9:30, the service begins, and you mute your microphone. You unmute during the sign of peace and again near the end of the church service, when Pastor Fred asks for prayer concerns and then leads us in prayer. Pastor Kopp leads a brief children's sermon weekly (which the grown-ups also enjoy!) , and we celebrate communion every week.

If you contact the church office (716-832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com) we can:

- Send you a Zoom worship invitation by email
- Practice 'Zooming' with you ahead of time
- Help you connect to our Zoom service using any telephone
- Try to answer any other Zoom-related questions

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 sermons at <https://stpaulseggertsville.org/past-sermon-videos/> .

Augustana Lutheran Church

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