



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Pastor's Ponderings

**“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.”**

Isaiah 55:1-3

I am reading a book called Listening for the Soul by Jean Stairs. It encourages counselors and people of God to take time to listen, learn, and live in the moment of a person's sharing and story. As the above text declares, we are called to listen carefully to God. Listening is mentioned over 250 times with Jesus calling us often to this Holy Spirit activity.

What does soulful listening look like? It is an act of intentionality. It not only includes caring, using appropriate facial expressions and posture, posing open-ended questions, closely observing, understanding, confronting, and evaluating, but it requires listening for what the presence of God, God's voice is saying for a particular person.

Listening helps us bridge gaps, find common ground, and unveils for us purposes yet to be explored.

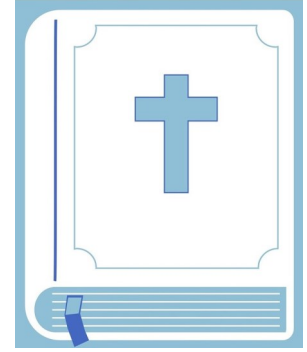
October can be a time of listening, for God's world is changing, God's people are seeking, and we are on a journey.

May God bless you and may your hearing be strengthened.

Peace, Pastor Fred

BIBLE STUDY: JUDGES

Pastor Fred's newest Bible Study is on the book of Judges. It takes place from **10—11:30 on Fridays from through October 28**. The group meets in Luther Hall in the basement of Augustana, and you can also participate on Zoom. Each session stands on its own, no prep required. Come and share, learn, and grow. Contact Pastor Fred to be added to his Zoom invite list.



AUGUSTANA WELCOMES VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS!

If you would like more information about Augustana or would like us to pray with you, please call Pastor Fred: (716) 984-8541.

CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT: HOPE AND HEALING

Through the Christian Hope and Healing Cancer Group I started almost a year ago, I have been blessed to meet people who have shared with me their cancer journeys. I am grateful that we have also become friends.

To better meet the needs of those I support, **I have decided to change the format from group to one on one. The 1:1 support can be through phone calls, emails, texts or in-person conversations**, to help give comfort to those in their cancer journey, through conversation and prayers.



I will continue to be in contact with those I have met and will provide individualized support in the way that works best for them. I cherish the people who have joined me on Zoom, but will no longer be offering Zoom as an option and will instead contact people to find another way to give support.

Perhaps in the future a new group may form, or other opportunities for consoling those with cancer may occur. I look forward to whatever God has in store for me to do.

I cling to this prayer: *Dear Lord, I don't know who or what will cross my path today but I do know that You are my rock and my fortress. You are my shield and my strong tower. Help me to anchor myself to You today. Teach me how to stand strong in You and choose only Your way today. Help me walk by Your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see You at work and as an opportunity to point others to You. Amen.*

Please contact me through Augustana's Church office: (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com.

Blessings,

Linda Sokoley

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT AUGUSTANA

At Augustana, there are many ways to serve. How can you use your interests and talents to help people in the church, in local communities, and around the world? Explore the possibilities as listed here, or talk to Pastor Fred about your ideas and skills that you would like to share.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.” 1 Corinthians 12: 4-5



Our RIDE (new name, same wonderful) program is revved up to go!!! We will begin with participants who already have their driver's permit and are ready to take driver's lessons! It is exciting for us and for them! We regularly hear from former RIDE participants who are so very thankful for this program.

As we look forward to helping others, the more we will need your help. These new "learning drivers" will need to practice the skills they learn. So, this is one of the first ways you might help. A former participant said that parking lot and cemetery driving practice are helpful. Please prayerfully consider if this might be one of the ways you can help. Below are other ways we need your help:

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|---|--------------------------------|
| Assisting with program registration / paperwork | Office help |
| Developing advanced computer applications | Fundraising |
| Being a liaison to Steven's Driving School | Serving as active board member |
| Teaching and teaching assistants | Grant writing |
| Driving participants to the DMV | Providing refreshments |
| Helping participants apply for permits. | Business-oriented projects |

Thank you! Please contact Pastor or me with your questions and offers of help.
In Christ, Johanna

ZOOM HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for people to help with ZOOM on Sundays. It would involve either setting up before the worship service or monitoring Zoom/moving iPad during the worship service. You would be fully trained. If interested, please contact Paulette Hotchkiss through the church office.

Paid position: Seeking individual or company to provide Augustana with snowplowing and snow shoveling service for sidewalks and related areas. Contact Pastor Fred for details: (716) 984-8541.

HAPPENING AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN (TOL)

Adult Education 2022-2023: Who is the Real Jesus?

In this fall's Adult Education program at TOL we will be looking at who the "Real Jesus" may be. We'll review some biblical passages but, for the most part, we'll look at sources and writings that are not included in the bible. For example, we'll examine what the Coptic and Armenian churches teach about their beliefs in Jesus' childhood and life. We'll delve into his childhood and young adult life from a variety of sources. For example, who was in his family (nuclear and extended) and what happened when he was 12? What do other gospels and letters not included in the bible tell us about who He was. I hope you will find these topics interesting.

Oct. 10: The Coptic stories of Jesus' childhood (II)	Oct. 24: The Gnostic stories of Jesus' childhood
Nov. 7: Temple or Mount of Olives?	Nov. 21: Jesus' young adulthood: Nazareth or India?
Dec. 5: Jesus' family and his Jewish roots	Jan. 16 - Elizabeth/Mary and John/Jesus
Jan. 30 – The Essenes influence on Jesus	Feb. 13 – Jesus according to Thomas and Judas
Feb. 27 – The Armenian Jesus	March 13 – Jesus and Mary Magdalene
March 27 – What the Q documents tell us	April 10 – Jesus and John, the Apostle
April 24 – How the Gospels were selected	May 8 – The Council of Nicea

Table Talk

Please join us for this monthly (2nd Wednesday of each month) discussion group. Our next session is on **Wed., Oct. 12**. Our focus will be on Oprah Winfrey's "Belief" video series. Discussion follows each episode. We meet from 6:30 till 8 pm, and there is also be a Zoom option. Please contact TOL's church office for the link.

Worship is at 11:00 on Sundays, in the church and on Zoom.

836-4868 / trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com / 3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226
Contact TOL for a Zoom invite for Sunday worship.

GRIEFSHARE at ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church hosts GriefShare groups. They have shared this information with us: *"GriefShare® is a network of thousands of grief recovery support groups meeting around the world. It's a program with direction and purpose. With GriefShare® you will learn how to walk the journey of grief and be supported on the way. It is a place where grieving people find healing and hope."*

To learn more about Griefshare, including the start date of the next series of sessions , please call Karen Hirnle at 716-694-2514 or leave a message at the church 716-693-0180.
Abiding Savior is at 1534 Ruie Rd., North Tonawanda, NY 14120

St. Mark's at 576 Delaware Rd., Kenmore, is having a **Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ and Basket Raffle** on **Sat., Oct. 15, 3-7 pm**. Profits go to their Saturday's Bread Community Meal. Food is Take Out. \$12/presale, \$13/door. Dinner: 1/2 chicken, potato salad, chef salad, roll/butter, dessert. Contacts for food presale txts: (716) 875-3707, or stmarkkenmore@gmail.com, or lduchene62470@gmail.com.

AUGUSTANA OUTREACH

Augustana's August food drive for the Community of Good Neighbors mobile food pantry resulted in 15 bags of groceries, delivered on 9/13. This photo is from an earlier donation to CGN in July. Pictured, left to right, are Pastor Kwame's husband Robert and Gary Kerr. Paula, Outreach chairperson, took the photo. Also, thank you very much for your contributions to the school we support in Sierra Leone.



Fall is a busy time for Outreach. Here is our upcoming schedule:

October 9 – Thanksgiving weekend: World Hunger, with ‘thank you’ luncheon on Nov. 27.

December: we will help **CGN** again. Pastor Kwame will let us know what kinds of donations are needed.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

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

In Budapest, Hungary, there is a place called Mandak House. That is where a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hungary worships, but it is also a community center and place of welcome to refugees and the vulnerable Roma population in the area.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled to neighboring countries. Budapest first saw many just passing through, and the Mandak House provided them with supplies they could take with them. Now, more people are staying in the city, some in shelters, some in homes of family or residents who provide space for them. The staff and volunteers at Mandak House help enroll children in schools, help adults find jobs, facilitate access to health care, and encourage community involvement.

All this could not be done without support, and the Lutheran Disaster Response of the ELCA is one of the many organizations that help. Mandak House has been able to expand its services to include psychological care, language interpreters, legal services. They are living out the Gospel through their actions. Your Mission support helps finance Mandak House. **Thank you!**

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

Unfortunately, new disasters keep happening, but Lutheran Disaster Relief keeps helping. On Sept. 19, LDR emailed us about their efforts to help the people affected by storms and an earthquake in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Alaska, Japan, Papua New Guinea and Pakistan. Very soon they will be adding Hurricane Ian. To stay informed about the response you can:

If reading this newsletter electronically: Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#). Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#). Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#), and follow @ELCA_LDR on [Instagram](#).

If you are reading this on paper: elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response

October Dates to Remember at Augustana

- Oct. 7, 14** (Friday): 10-11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Judges, in Augustana and on Zoom
Oct.20 (Thursday): Council Meeting, Zoom @ 7 pm.
Oct. 21, 28 (Friday): 10—11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Judges, in Augustana and on Zoom
Oct. 30 (Sunday): Joint Reformation Sunday service at Augustana, at 9:30, with TOL.
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Bible Story and Coloring Book

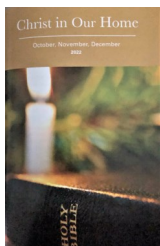
This book, featuring Augustana's stained glass windows, is available for free to all children who visit Augustana. The books are also available to adults for a donation of \$20. 100% of the donation goes to Lutheran World Relief; specifically to their work in Ukraine. Stop in at church to pick one up, or we would be glad to mail one to people out of town.

WNY Church Unleashed

If you are unable to join us for in-person or Zoom worship on Sundays, you can watch Lutheran worship on Cable TV channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 am. "Church Unleashed" is led by Lutheran Pastors Beigner, Griffiths and Smith. For previous weeks, go to YouTube and search for "WNY Church Unleashed."

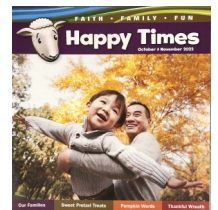
Covid Health and Safety

Masks are optional in the church and during coffee hour. For questions about Covid precautions and practices, contact Paulette through the church office. If you start to feel sick or test positive for Covid after you have been in church, contact Beth Kerr (716-553-0385). Beth has been trained as a contract tracer.



**Happy Times magazine for kids, Oct. and Nov.
and Christ In Our Homes daily devotionals for adults,
Oct.—Dec.**

Available in the church entry hall, or please contact the church office to have one mailed 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.)

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