



# Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

### **Word**

I, who live by words, am wordless when  
I try my words in prayer. All language turns  
To silence. Prayer will take my words and then  
Reveal the emptiness. The stifled voice learns  
To hold its peace, to listen with the heart,  
To silence that is joy, is adoration.  
The self is shattered, all words torn apart  
In this strange patterned time of contemplation  
That, in time, breaks time, breaks word, breaks me,  
And then in silence, leaves me healed and mended.  
I leave, returned to language, for I see  
Through words, even when all words are ended.  
I who live by words, am wordless  
When I turn me to the Word to pray. Amen.

Madeleine L'Engle

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

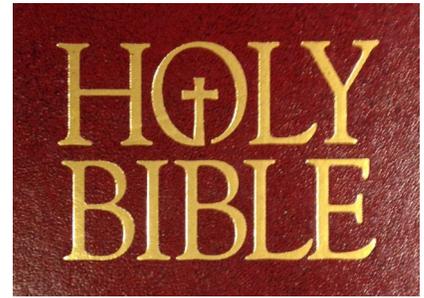
Some words that enter my mind in prayer are Faith, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Thanksgiving, Joy, Humility, and Creation. What words enter your mind this Autumn while being in the presence of the WORD?

A Blessed November to you,

Pastor Fred

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Fred's upcoming Bible Study is on the topic of Advent. It will take place from **10—11:30 on Friday Dec. 2, 9 and 16.** The group meets in Luther Hall in the lower level 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.



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## 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.

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## CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT: HOPE AND HEALING

by Linda Sokoley



The format of this ministry has changed from group meetings to one-on-one support. Through phone calls, emails, texts, or 1:1 in-person conversations and prayers, I can quickly give individualized help as needed. If you or someone you know is in need of support, or if you have questions, please contact me through the church office: (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com .

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## Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve, we will have a 4:30 pm candlelight communion service. It will be both in the sanctuary and on Zoom.



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## Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

It is time to order poinsettias to be placed on the altar for the Christmas Eve service. The cost is \$8.50 .

Please fill out the form that you will find on the last page of this newsletter and place it either in the designated collection box in the narthex or mail it to Augustana.

Orders must be received and paid for by **Nov. 20** . Please talk to Nora Pomplun if you have any questions, or contact the church office.



# Thanksgiving

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

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35*

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry. 820 million, or 11%, in the world go hungry; in the US there are 40 million hungry.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

We start with relationships marked by conversation and listening. We believe people know their own communities best. It is our congregations and our global companion churches that first identify the local needs and related solutions to help make a difference. Then, we partner with communities to help make those solutions a reality.

Working through ELCA congregations, global companion churches, The Lutheran World Federation and other partners like Bread for the World, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran World Relief, the ELCA reaches more places more effectively than we could ever do alone. In addition to funding relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, we engage members of the ELCA in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty.

ELCA World Hunger is active in 34 states and territories of the US, in 63 countries around the world. As you sit down to a Thanksgiving table laden with food, think how your gift to ELCA World Hunger, feeds others. **Thank you!** For more info, go to [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org), click on “Our Work,” then World Hunger. We are church together for the sake of the world. God’s Work. Our Hands.

For information on Augustana’s Outreach for World Hunger / God’s Global Barnyard, see page 4.

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## Stewardship Drive

By Paulette Hotchkiss, Council Finance Chair

*Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. Deuteronomy 16:17*

Thank you to those who have already returned pledge cards for 2023. If you would like to fill out a pledge card, there are copies on the table at the entrance of the sanctuary, or contact the church office and we will US or email it to you. Pledges need to be put in the offering plate or received in the church office by Nov. 13 so that they can be used to help formulate the 2023 budget. Please see me if you have any questions or contact me through the church office. Thank you.

# AUGUSTANA OUTREACH by Paula Kerr

## Thanksgiving Outreach Project

We are again partnering with Trinity Old Lutheran to provide the “Fixings” for Thanksgiving Dinners, to be given to people who will receive full Thanksgiving dinners from Good Shepherd’s food pantry. The items needed are: **cans of cranberry sauce, boxes of instant potatoes and stuffing mix, turkey gravy (jars or mix), dessert mixes (brownies, cookies, or cake and frosting), and disposable roasting pans.**



All items must be dropped off at Augustana by **Sunday, Nov. 13.**

See handout in narthex with list of items needed and tally of items already donated. Thank you!

### God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

 <p><b>Cow</b> A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security. <b>\$500</b></p>	 <p><b>Chicks</b> Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry. <b>\$10</b></p>
 <p><b>Goat</b> Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market. <b>\$50</b></p>	 <p><b>Honeybees</b> Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market. <b>\$20</b></p>
 <p><b>Pig</b> Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market. <b>\$30</b></p>	 <p><b>Fish Farm</b> A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community. <b>\$250</b></p>

### World Hunger Drive / God's Global Barnyard Through Sunday, Nov. 27

Through Thanksgiving weekend, we are collecting donations for ELCA World Hunger. Part of ELCA World Hunger is God's Global Barnyard.

Additional information is in the narthex and at coffee hour about making donations for specific animals and hunger-related projects. You can make a donation in someone's name and give them a card that we have available. There are also coloring books and other materials for children.

Please plan to attend our wrap up and 'thank you' luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 27 after church, when we get together to decide which animals to purchase with funds that have been collected throughout the drive.

There are designated envelopes available in the narthex

which you can put in the offering plate, or you can mail in a check with World Hunger in the memo portion. Learn more: [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).

## December Outreach

Next month we will be collecting items for the Community of Good Neighbors pantry.

Pastor Kwame will be in contact with me regarding what items are needed and the information will be in the December newsletter and bulletin.

## A Prayer From ELCA World Hunger

*Good and gracious God, in the busyness of our days help us to not turn away from our neighbors in need. Grant us courage to stand with them, let our voice join with theirs, and let our actions reflect the example we have in your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

## 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*



By Johanna Andritz

Our RIDE program is up and running; we are supporting individuals who are taking driving 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 assistance. 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.

We need volunteers in other capacities, as well. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. To learn more, contact me at (716) 870-8518 / jdantritz@aol.com or Pastor Fred. Thank you.

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### ZOOM HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for people to be trained to set up or monitor Zoom/ move the iPad during the worship service. Please contact Paulette Hotchkiss through the church office. Thank you.

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### BAKERS NEEDED

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, we will be baking apple and pumpkin pies at church, starting in the morning. See sign up sheet in the narthex. Ask Nora Pomplun if you have questions. Thank you!

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**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.

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### THANKSGIVING PIE SALE



You can order freshly made apple and pumpkin pies, \$10 each, or \$20 if you would like a 'jelly roll pan' size. Pies will be picked up on Nov. 22 from 1-4 or call the office to make another arrangement. The order form is on the last page of this newsletter and in the narthex. 100% of the purchase price will go toward the deficit.



# ***News for those who live in the Town of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore***

***Ken Ton Meals on Wheels, with the aid of the Town of Tonawanda and other organizations, is offering FREE Thanksgiving meals to residents of the Town of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. Call 874-3595 to reserve your meal. Meals are either 'Take Out' or delivered. Details are on the bulletin board near the office.***

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## ***HAPPENING AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN (TOL)***

### **Veterans Day Service at TOL has been CHANGED**

We will honor our veterans in song, worship and prayer during our weekly worship service on **Sunday, November 13 at 11 am.**

Please join us that day!

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## **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.

**Nov. 7:** Jesus's family and his Jewish roots

**Nov. 21:** The Coptic stories of Jesus' childhood

**Dec. 5:** The Gnostic stories of Jesus' childhood

**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

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## **Table Talk**

Please join us for this monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month) discussion group. 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.

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**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.**

## November and December Dates to Remember at Augustana

- Nov. 13 (Sunday):** Deadline to order pies, donate food for Good Shepherd Thanksgiving drive, and hand in Stewardship pledges.
- Nov. 17 (Thursday):** Council meeting 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Nov. 20 (Sunday):** Deadline to order poinsettias.
- Nov. 27 (Sunday):** “Thank You” luncheon (at church) and wrap-up of ELCA World Hunger Drive
- Dec. 11 (Sunday):** Annual Congregational Budget Meeting after church
- Dec. 24 (Saturday):** Christmas Eve Service, 4:30
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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.

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## 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.”

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## 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 (553-0385; trained as a contract tracer).

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**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 Tithely. (For info on Tithely, see our website: [augustanaonline.org](http://augustanaonline.org).)

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## Augustana Lutheran Church

**3143 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150**

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

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

[www.augustanaonline.org](http://www.augustanaonline.org)

**Facebook** @[@augustanatonawanda](https://www.facebook.com/augustanatonawanda) **Instagram** @[@augustanalutheranchurchtonny](https://www.instagram.com/augustanalutheranchurchtonny)

## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

**\*\* Deadline for Ordering and Payment is November 20<sup>th</sup> \*\***

**\*Pre-paid orders only\*   \*No Exceptions\*   \*All 6 1/2" plants are \$8.50 each\***

If you are at church: place order form and cash or check (payable to Augustana Lutheran Church) in designated envelope and then put in clear box in narthex. If mailing in the order form: USmail the order and payment to Augustana Lutheran Church, 3143 Eggert Rd, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Orders mailed in must be received by November 18. Note: Please do not place order form or payment in offering plate. We would not know that you want to order poinsettias. Thank you!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ RED    \_\_\_\_\_ WHITE    \_\_\_\_\_ PINK

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



## THANKSGIVING PIE ORDER FORM

To help offset the deficit, we are making and selling apple and pumpkin pies for \$10 each.

**Deadline for ordering and payment is Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

NEW PICK UP DAY/TIME: PIES SHOULD BE PICKED UP ON TUES., NOV. 22, 1 pm to 4 pm.

To arrange a different day/time please call the church office: 832-5720.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are at church: place order form and cash or check (payable to Augustana Lutheran Church) in designated envelope and then put in clear box in narthex. Or you can US mail the order and payment to Augustana Lutheran Church, 3143 Eggert Rd, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Orders mailed in must be received by November 11. Note: Do not place order form or payment in offering plate. Thank you!

PIE	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Apple \$10		
Apple 'sheet pan' (Jelly Roll pan) – Provide your own pan with your name on it. \$20.00		
Pumpkin with walnut streusel \$10		
Pumpkin without walnut streusel \$10		
<b>Total enclosed</b>		