



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER September 2022

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Pastor's Ponderings

Loren Keller was a member of TOL, poet, author, teacher, playwright, and humanitarian. At his celebration of life I shared a prayer attributed to 1500's British explorer Sir Francis Drake. I thought of Loren, who through his words pushed us beyond ourselves.

Disturb us Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas
where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars. We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;
and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

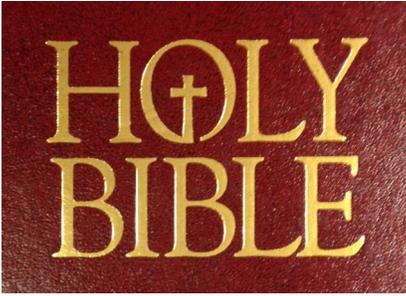
As we enter Autumn and gather our thoughts from the summer, may we think boldly about our calling as God's children. Dare to dream! Dare to Risk! Serve with gusto! We are meant to be in the rough seas to see the stars and reach for heaven.

Paul encouraged his church in Philippi with these words..."this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Blessings on your journey.

Yours in Christ, 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 September 9 through October 28.** The group meets in Luther Hall in 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: augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com.

HOPE AND HEALING: A CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Linda Sokoley hosts Hope and Healing, a Christian **cancer support group** at Augustana and via Zoom on the **4th Tuesday of every month from 3:00-4:00.** The next meeting is **September 27.** This group is open to all who have cancer or have gone through a cancer journey. For more info, contact the church office: (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com.

OUTREACH

by Paula Kerr

Thank you for your contributions of food for the Community of Good Neighbors mobile food pantry.

Our next Outreach project will be announced soon. Stay tuned for details, which will be in the bulletin.



AUGUSTANA WELCOMES VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS!

If you would like more information about Augustana or would like someone to pray with you, please call Pastor Fred (716) 984-8541 or Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister (716) 970-0170.

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.

VOTE!!

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

Your church wants you to vote. Your church wants **everybody** to vote! To work toward that goal, ELCAvotes is an initiative to encourage voter participation, to discuss and explain the issues, and to work for equal rights for all. Its mission statement is:

We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.

We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens.

"[It is] resolved, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to "promote public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens ..."

Do you have a neighbor or relative who can't physically get to the voting booth? You can help by making sure they have the information to get an absentee ballot. You can volunteer to give rides on election day to people without transportation. You can work as a polling place observer. We cannot take the right to vote for granted. That is why ELCA Advocacy, a ministry of our national church body, encourages us to help keep that right available to all!

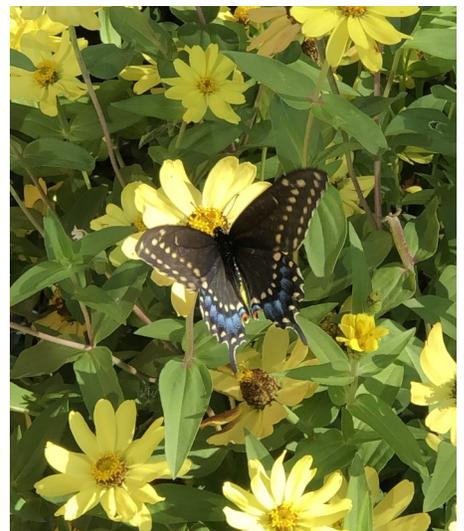
AUGUSTANA GARDENS

The happy project of keeping the landscaping looking good is ongoing. This year's challenge was the prolonged dry spell, but the recent rain has helped.



Many thanks to the Augustana friend who donated the 'Black-Eyed Susans' that are now planted next to our sign.

And a female Black Swallowtail butterfly spent a long time enjoying the zinnias next to the front door.



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 Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister about your ideas and skills that you would like to share: (716) 970-0170 / s6al99@aol.com.

"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

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, contact Paulette Hotchkiss through the church office.
Thank you.



Augustana has been teaching refugees and immigrants how to drive since 2007. With the support of Lutheran Charities, agencies, community support and volunteers, we have helped more than 100 people from more than 30 different countries earn their license, giving them greater access to work, healthcare and other services in the community.

The program is seeking volunteers in a variety of roles, including, teachers, DMV driver companions, people with business acumen, and people who have computer skills. We are restarting this program after reorganization, and hope to be able to offer help to Refugees later in September. For more information or to share your interest talk to Johanna Andritz, Pastor Fred, or leave a message in the church office.

OUTREACH

Volunteers are always needed to help with outreach efforts. See Paula Kerr if you can help, or leave a message through the church office.

GARDENING

More gardening help will make the landscaping look more beautiful. See Donna if you can help out. You can volunteer at flexible times that work for you. No knowledge of plants or gardening needed!

HAPPENING AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN (TOL)

Adult Retreat: Creation and Creativity

A time to gather again in fellowship, laughter and prayer

Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2 Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
Open to all who are 18+ Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke

Time: Friday, Sept. 30: Gathering begins at 6:00 PM. Program begins at 7:00 PM followed by socializing and fellowship - **bring your own drinks and snacks**

Sat., Oct. 1: 8:30 Breakfast - Programming throughout the day. Evening for socializing + fellowship

Sun., Oct. 2: 8:30 Breakfast, program and worship. Depart by Noon.

Cost and packages: Prices subject to change

Option 1: Friday through Sunday—

One person in a single room: \$170

Room for 2 nights and 4 meals:

One person in double room: \$110

Option 2: Fri. through Sat. night or Sat. through Sun.

One person in a single room: \$100

Room for 1 night and 4 meals:

One person in double room: \$70

Option 3: Meals only: \$30

Reservations: Sign up on bulletin board at TOL or Contact Trinity Old Lutheran 836-4868 or Charlie Schmidtke at 694-1335 or schmidtkecharles@gmail.com. Payment due by Sept. 30. Make checks payable to Charles Schmidtke please. Information sheets will be sent to everyone who registers.

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

In the next 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.

Sept. 12: The Bible’s two different Nativity stories	Sept. 26: Coptic stories of Jesus’ childhood (I)
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

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.

HAPPENING AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN, continued

CHIAVETTA'S DINNER and THEME BASKET FUNDRAISER

Sunday, September 11 from 12 noon till 3:30 pm.

Dine In or Take Out.

Dinners are \$15.00 (includes two salads, roll/butter and dessert)

Table Talk

Please join us for this bi-weekly discussion group beginning Wednesday, September 14.

Our focus will be on Oprah Winfrey's "Belief" video series. A discussion will follow each episode. We begin at 6:30 pm and go until 8:00 pm. There will also be a Zoom option. (Please contact Charlie Schmidtke for the link.)

This class is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend.

LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CENTER FALL PROGRAMS



Adult Fall Retreat September 16-18 A program of learning, fellowship, faith, and fun for adults. Program, food, and lodging take place in our hotel-style Retreat Center.

Blacksmithing for Beginners Oct. 15 Join us for a day of forging and fellowship in which you'll be introduced to the basic blacksmithing techniques of fire management, drawing-out, upsetting, cutting, bending, and twisting. Using these techniques you will heat a piece of iron to brilliant glow and with anvil, hammer, and tongs create a decorative and useful piece of ironwork.

LCLC RUN4CAMP 5K October 23 A fun run, walk, hike, or 'whatever,' benefiting LCLC.

For more information, and to register, go to : <https://www.lclcenter.org/year-round-events>



LUTHERAN CHARITIES of WNY

Thank you to the many Sponsors, Business Donors, and Golfers who supported our golf outing at Glen Oak Golf Club earlier this month. In spite of the rain and wind, we prevailed and raised over \$11,000 to underwrite community grants in 2023! Everyone's a winner when we come together in support of the many organizations that provide life-giving and life-changing resources to those who need it most in Western New York. We at Lutheran Charities couldn't do what we do without your participation and generosity, so thank you for *Gathering God's Gifts for Good!* We can't wait for our 25th year! Blessings, The Board of Directors

*Special congratulations to Augustana member Tom Bartkowski and his teammates!
You can see the trophy at an upcoming coffee hour.*



Congratulations to Our Team Winners!

Men's Trophy:

Score: -15

Tom Bartkowski
Jim Bartkowski
Matt Kiefer
John Schembri

Mixed Trophy:

Score: -5

Sam Crisante
Carole Orsolits
Donna Scuto
Pam Zavodny

Women's Trophy:

Score: +6

Karen Farrar
Jill Jakubowicz
Melissa Peters
Debi Turley

September Dates to Remember at Augustana

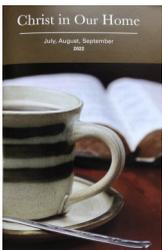
- Sept. 9 (Friday):** 10-11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Judges, in Augustana and on Zoom
Sept.15 (Thursday): Council Meeting, Zoom @ 7 pm.
Sept. 16, 23 (Friday): 10—11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Judges, in Augustana and on Zoom
Sept. 27 (Tuesday): Christian Cancer Support Group, 3-4 pm, in Augustana and Zoom.
Sept. 30 (Friday): 10—11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Judges, in Augustana and on Zoom
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Prayer Partner: After the worship service Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister, can pray with you confidentially at the side altar.

Home Visits: Lance is also able to visit people at home. He will give you communion and can offer prayers or readings. Masks are required during the Prayer Partner time and home visits. Please contact Lance if you have questions or would like to schedule a home visit: (716) 970-0170.

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, Aug. and Sept.
and Christ In Our Homes daily
devotionals for adults, July–Sept.**

Available in the church entry hall, or you can 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.)

Augustana Lutheran Church

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

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

www.augustanaonline.org

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