

Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Pastor's Ponderings

Our Revelation study has been opening my eyes to the hope we can find in Jesus. In this study we are reminded that the Biblical message is that God comes to earth to live on it with us through Jesus, despite the occurrences of earthquakes, darkness, and plagues. In every age, God comes! God loves us and the world God made. God saw that it was good. This understanding comes in conflict with the theology of the Rapture that was developed within the last 200 years, in which accepting Jesus provides escape of an escalating end of the world mentality. I believe that this understanding is dangerous, because it takes the human race away from being accountable for their actions and away from the stewardship of the earth that God intended humans to have.

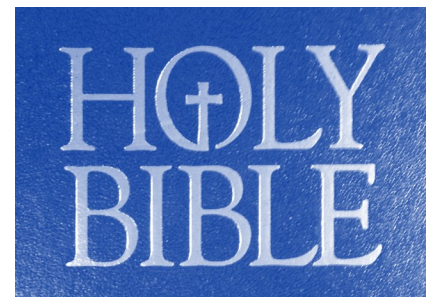
Being God's children is an act of God and not one in which we can decide who is in and who is out. Therefore our call is to treat all people like brothers and sisters in Christ. Our call is also to allow God's healing presence to be our motivation to care for God's earth. I believe God's coming will be a kingdom on earth in which "all nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord and they will bring glory to your name" (Psalm 86:9). John writes in Revelation, "Behold I make all things new." I have hope for our world and the desire that we work towards a community that has at its core caring for, not judging, God's creations.

So, empowered to serve, and enjoying God's earth and its people, I remain,

Pastor Fred

BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION

Pastor Fred's current Bible Study is on Revelation. The group meets on Fridays 10—11:30 am in Luther Hall on the lower level of Augustana through **Oct. 27**. You can also participate on Zoom. Each session stands on its own; no prep required. Contact Pastor Fred to be added to his Zoom invite list: augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com.



OUTREACH

'GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS' COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

On Sunday, September 10, our congregation held a "baby shower" in response to the ELCA's "Gods Work, Our Hands" initiative. We joined other local churches in collecting donations that would benefit Harvest House (a local agency that has a Babies and Children's ministry that provides clothing, baby furniture and other necessities) and Response to Love (an agency that also provides assistance to individuals, children, and families in need). Our "shower" included decorations, fun games and prizes, as well as a cake and punch during the coffee hour after our church service.

We collected a large number of donations which were boxed up and collected by St. Paul's Williamsville to be taken to the needy agencies. We had great fun and wonderful participation by the congregation. Many thanks to our helpers-Judy, Paula, Linda, and Paulette for this important Outreach initiative. Thank you also to our generous congregation.

MODEL EVANGELICAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, SIERRA LEONE— OCTOBER 8

On **Sunday, October 8**, Alan Sesay will update us on the **Model Evangelical Primary School in Sierra Leone**. We support this school through the Sierra Leone Cultural Alliance of WNY by making donations toward food for the children and toward completion of their new school. We will welcome Alan to coffee hour where you can ask additional questions. Coffee hour donations that day will go to the school.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER DRIVE

We will begin our annual ELCA Hunger Drive soon.
Watch for announcements in the bulletin. See Paula if you would like to help with this very worthwhile project.

COMMUNITY OF GOOD NEIGHBORS

The Community of Good Neighbors runs a mobile Food Pantry on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at Jericho Road, 21 Doat Street, from 10 am—12:00 pm.

For additional information see their website: cgnbuffalo.com

CGN's greatest needs at this time are for jelly and cereal that is not high in sugar.
(They do not want donations of coffee, paper products or personal hygiene products.)

If you would like to donate, you can place the food in Augustana's narthex.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Augustana Outreach!
See next page for our Driving Program update.

Refugee Immigrant Driver Education

Drive to Thrive

By Johanna Andritz



RIDE continues to drive to thrive! We know that two students have now received their drivers' licenses and are on the road -- going to appointments, driving to work, taking their children to events, getting the groceries... We received this lovely note just a week ago from one of them:

Hello, good morning, dear Augustana,

I pass for road test on September 7, 2023 and I will get my driver license in two weeks. Thank you so much for your help. I feel who helping people like me. Thank you so much!

Sincerely yours,

Khatijah (Khatijah is from Malaysia.)

At least three of our learner permit students are now taking driving lessons from Stevens Driving School. Just last week, we were able to add three more students to those who are receiving lessons. They are all so very excited and thankful --- as we are excited for them and our program.

Thank you to Carol Kreger for helping do clerical work for RIDE! Go rrrrrrRIDE!
Please contact me if you would like to volunteer.

Johanna (716-870-8518)

"Serve one another humbly in faith." Galatians 5:13

UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

REFORMATION DAY SERVICE AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN OCTOBER 29

On Sunday, October 29, we will be worshipping at Trinity Old Lutheran at 11:00 am for a special Reformation Day service. There will not be a service at Augustana on this date. Trinity Old Lutheran is at 3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, between Sweet Home Road and Millersport Highway.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

On **Sunday morning, Dec. 24**, there will be a morning service **at Augustana** at our usual worship time of **9:30 am**. The congregation of TOL will be worshipping with us at Augustana.

Augustana's Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols (with communion) will be at **4:30 pm**.

Trinity Old Lutheran's Christmas Eve service will take place at **7:00 pm**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL at AUGUSTANA !



We're getting ready to **Spark All Kids** beginning **Sunday, November 5.**

We are going to try a new schedule. Sunday school will be offered the **FIRST** and **LAST Sunday of each month.** Classes will begin after communion. The children, their families, and the teachers will be invited to receive communion first. Then, the children will go downstairs for lessons. **Probably,** at the beginning of coffee hour, the children will get a snack and then Sunday school will continue. Sunday school will end at or before 11:00. (Please bear with us as we figure out what works best for everyone.)

Spark All Kids is for all grades (before confirmation classes). In the fall, we will explore the Old Testament together. We'll hear stories, use the Bible, learn interesting facts about the people and places we learn about... There'll be music and fun activities and so much more. Please spread the word!

Ready to sparkle!

Linda Sokoley and Johanna Andritz

Lutheran Youth Fall Retreat at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center October 6-8 Grades 4-7

This retreat is open to all youth.



Enjoy LCLC in the splendor of Fall, play some Gaga Ball, and grow in your faith. Grades 4-7 Also, enjoy the Climbing Tower, Adventure Course, as well as fun fall activities like pumpkin painting, Bills/Flag football, and a Fall Bash Saturday night!

Throughout the weekend we will be exploring our faith life through the image of trees. With the beautiful autumn colors surrounding us we will discuss the "Roots of our Faith", "Growing in our Faith", and "Sharing our Faith" in small groups. Each group will also have the chance to plant multiple new trees around camp that they will get to see grow for years to come!

Register at lclcenter.campbrainregistration.com under Year-Round Programs

Participants will be staying in Cabins for the weekend. They will be provided with 5 meals and a snack Friday evening. *(There is no dinner provided Friday night) *The cost is \$90.00 per person. Lutheran Youth has funds set aside to ensure every individual who wants to attend programs can. If you have any difficulty in paying the cost to attend please email lutheranyouthwny@gmail.com for more information.

FALL FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14
11am - 2 pm**

**APPLE CIDER &
DONUTS**

LIVE MUSIC
(BYO folding chair)

WEAR A COSTUME

GAMES & CONTESTS

LOADS OF TREATS

**BRING YOUR
TRICK OR TREAT BAG**

BRING THE FAMILY!

RAIN OR SHINE

EVERYTHING IS FREE!

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH
3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
(corner of Rockland, near Colvin exit of 290)
(716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com**

Please talk to Judy, Johanna, or Linda if you have any questions, or if you can help with this event. Also, see the sign up sheet on the table in the narthex, including for the Treat Table (cookies, cupcakes, brownies) to be put in baggies. Invite your friends and neighbors!

RECONCILING IN CHRIST
COFFEE HOUR PRESENTATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22



One of the dreams or visions for our congregation and its programs, ministry, mission... is “wild” hospitality. This is, at least, in part, what TOL and Augustana are exploring as we consider the spectrum of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

At the beginning of coffee hour on Sunday, October 22nd, our group invites you to watch a short video which shares a bit of what we’ve been doing.

As I read a Monday, September 18th devotion from *Christ in Our Home*, I was, again, reminded of this hospitality. The title of the devotion is “The blessing of unity” written by Karen Minnich-Sadler, a retired ELCA pastor, living in Lancaster County, PA. (*Christ in Our Home* can be found in the narthex on the bulletin table or the other table). How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! (Psalm 133: 1) “One of the greatest blessings of being part of a faith community is the relationships we establish over the years. We worship together, laugh together, grieve together, and support one another through the challenges of life. Through all the ups and downs and differences, we show the world how people of differing views and personalities [and orientations]... can live and function as a community that has a warm and welcoming heart.”

We are at our best when we strive to love one another unconditionally, share each other’s stories, go the distance with one another and help each other stand when we feel we cannot do so alone. Together, we have learned we need one another, and because of the bond of the faith community, we are never alone. We’re blessed by the presence of both Christ in our midst and the Christ we can see in each other. It is this Christ-presence that teaches us how to live together in grace.

Your love, O God, unites us all. Help us embrace this truth as we live with our differences. Amen.

Prayer concern: People seeking a diverse faith community”

ReconcilingWorks is an independent Lutheran, membership-supported organization for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of LGBTQIA+ Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their church, congregations and community.

ELCA social statement on human sexuality, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, expresses ELCA teaching on human sexuality. A social statement is a teaching and policy document that assists us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and society. This statement was adopted in 2009 and provides guidance on matters like marriage, family and same-gender relationships. *Both of these can be found on the elca.org website.*

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERMON DISCUSSION / INPUT

Pastor Fred is asking for participants to join him in a **bag lunch** discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. It is known as a pericope study. We will be meeting the **4th Wednesday of each month at noon, for two hours in the Fireside room at Trinity Old Lutheran**. Please let Pastor Fred know if you are interested in coming, as there will be some preparation in order to have a discussion about the text/world events/church challenges:
augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com / (716) 984-8541.

FELLOWSHIP ROOM MAKEOVER

It is time to put some life back into the Fellowship Room. Paulette Hotchkiss is looking for a few volunteers to help make the fellowship room a meeting place. We will create a cozy room where everyone will want to be. Committee meetings will be held during the day and will not take up a lot of your time. If you would like to volunteer call the church office and Paulette will get back to you.

Thank you!

AUGUSTANA GARDEN NEWS by Donna Bartkowski



Even this late in the year, our gardens are providing nectar and pollen for bees, especially the native asters and goldenrod.

We still have milkweed seeds to give away.

If you are interested, let me know!



Lutheran Charities
of Western New York

Whodunnit Dinner Theater Presents:

Murder Under the Hood
Featuring the Lord of Life Players

November 3rd & 4th
6:00 PM Doors Open
7:00 PM Dinner Theater

Ripa's Italian Restaurant
4218 Walden Avenue, Lancaster NY

Cost: \$60 per person
Dinner Includes:
salad, choice of entree, potato and vegetable,
chocolate mousse, coffee/tea

Registration Deadline is October 29th!
This Popular Event Will Sell-Out Quickly!
GET TICKETS TODAY!

RSVP & PAY ONLINE at
WNYLutheranCharities.org
or call 716-632-2623

**NOTE: To Be Seated In GROUPS or with others,
please RSVP TOGETHER!**
Tables seat 8 persons.

Calling all Augustana mystery fans, and their friends and families! Here is a unique way to support Lutheran Charities.

See sign up sheet in the narthex. The plan is that Augustana will get a table (or part of a table) on **Friday, Nov. 3.**

Sign up and pay Donna Bartkowski by **Sunday, Oct. 15** and she will pay for the group.

The mystery play takes place during parts of the meal (but not during the entree). By the end of the dinner, each table submits one guess for who did it, how, and their motive, and the winning table gets bragging rights.

You can also attend Saturday, Nov. 4. Just follow the directions on the flyer to RSVP and pay.

HAPPENING AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN CHURCH (TOL)

Adult Education Fall 2023

Biblical events – examining context and discussing what they mean. Instructor: Charlie Schmidtke
Classes are at TOL and on Zoom on these Mondays, from 1:00 pm—2:30 pm.

Oct. 9 – Sodom and Gomorrah Oct. 23 – Abraham’s Sacrifice Nov. 6 – Exodus - Deliverance
Nov. 20 – Exodus – Mount Sinai Dec. 4 – Deborah’s victory

January 2024 —May 2024 topics and dates are on flyer on Augustana’s bulletin board.

Lutheran World Relief Quilters Group

Beginning on Thursday, Oct. 5, the quilters will meet on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the room adjacent to the church office . All are welcome to join them—no quilting experience is necessary. If you can use a sewing machine or an iron, there is a place for you in the group! If you are interested, or if you have any questions, ask Barb Maugans: (716-692-8116).

(716) 836-4868 / trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226

Weekly Sunday worship is at 11:00.

Contact TOL for a Zoom invite for Sunday worship and Adult Education classes.

HAPPENING AT ST. PAUL’S WILLIAMSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Finding Grace in Life’s Transitions: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Williamsville has invited Augustana and other area churches to participate in seminars concerning aging and serious illness. Sessions will be held at their church, located at 68 Eagle Street, Williamsville, on **Oct. 28** (Planning Your Funeral) and **Nov. 18** (Healthcare Decisions, Advance Planning and Hospice Care) from 10 – 11:30 am, followed by lunch and conversation. Contact St. Paul’s for more information: 716-634-2330.

HAPPENING AT ST. MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Martin Lutheran Church is having a Knitting and Crocheting marathon for the homeless on Sat. Oct. 21 and Sat. Nov.18 between the hours of 10am and 6pm. You can come when you are available during those times. Or if you have items to donate, you can drop them off at the church Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. They can be left in or outside the Pastor's office. Or you can provide food for those attending. If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Meghan James (716-697-5953. pastormj2023@gmail.com.) See flyer on Augustana’s bulletin board.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

The people of Augustana strongly support ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. This list, from ELCA.org/hunger, shows where your gifts were used in 2022.

ELCA World Hunger		Lutheran Disaster Response		
67 countries		42 countries		
43 states and territories		26 states and territories		
INTERNATIONAL		INTERNATIONAL		UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN
Angola	Madagascar	Angola	Kenya	Alaska
Argentina	Malawi	<i>Drought</i>	<i>Refugees, drought</i>	<i>Typhoon Merbok</i>
Bangladesh	Malaysia	Argentina	Lebanon	California
Bolivia	Mauritania	<i>Migrants</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Wildfires</i>
Botswana	Mexico	Bangladesh	Madagascar	Colorado
Brazil	Myanmar	<i>Flood</i>	<i>COVID-19, hurricane, drought</i>	<i>Wildfires</i>
Burkina Faso	Namibia	Belarus	Malawi	District of Columbia
Burundi	Nepal	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Hurricane</i>	<i>Migration</i>
Cambodia	Nicaragua	Bolivia	<i>Hurricane</i>	Florida-Bahamas
Cameroon	Nigeria	<i>Hurricane</i>	Mexico	<i>Hurricanes Ian, Sally, Dorian and Michael, disaster preparedness, COVID-19</i>
Central African Republic	Palestine	Cambodia	<i>Migrants, hurricane, earthquake, refugees</i>	Georgia
Chile	Papua New Guinea	<i>Flood</i>	Moldova	<i>Tornadoes, Hurricane Michael</i>
Colombia	Peru	Chad	<i>Conflict</i>	Kansas
Costa Rica	Republic of the Congo	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Wildfires, COVID-19</i>
Czech Rep.	Romania	Chile	Namibia	Kentucky
Egypt	Russia	<i>Migrants</i>	<i>COVID-19</i>	<i>Flooding, tornadoes</i>
El Salvador	Rwanda	Colombia	Nepal	Louisiana
Ethiopia	Senegal	<i>Migrants, COVID-19</i>	<i>Flood, earthquake</i>	<i>Tornadoes, disaster preparedness, Hurricane Ida</i>
Ghana	Sierra Leone	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Minnesota
Guatemala	South Africa	<i>Migrants</i>	<i>COVID-19, flood</i>	<i>Tornadoes, severe storms, COVID-19, civil unrest</i>
Guinea	South Sudan	Cuba	Pakistan	Mississippi
Haiti	Switzerland	<i>Conflict, health crisis</i>	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Water crisis</i>
Honduras	Tanzania	El Salvador	Palestine	Missouri
Hungary	Thailand	<i>Migrants, drought, flood</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Tornadoes, COVID-19</i>
India	The Gambia	Ethiopia	Peru	Montana
Indonesia	Timor-Leste	<i>Drought, conflict</i>	<i>Migrants</i>	<i>Extreme cold</i>
Iraq	Uganda	The Gambia	Philippines	Nebraska
Israel	United States of America	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Hurricane</i>	<i>Capacity building</i>
Japan	Venezuela	Guatemala	Poland	New Jersey
Jordan	Vietnam	<i>Migrants</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Hurricane Ida</i>
Kenya	Yemen	Haiti	Romania	New York
Lebanon	Zambia	<i>Earthquake</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Winter storm, Buffalo mass shooting, migrants</i>
Liberia	Zimbabwe	Honduras	Sierra Leone	North Carolina
		<i>Migrants</i>	<i>Flood</i>	<i>Disaster preparedness</i>
		Hungary	Slovakia	North Dakota
		<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Refugees, conflict</i>	<i>COVID-19</i>
		India	South Africa	Ohio
		<i>Refugees, emergency preparedness, flood</i>	<i>Drought, flood</i>	<i>Tornadoes</i>
		Indonesia	South Sudan	Oregon
		<i>Earthquake</i>	<i>Health crisis, flood</i>	<i>Wildfires, disaster preparedness</i>
		Iraq	Thailand	Pennsylvania
		<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Flooding, Hurricane Ida</i>
			Ukraine	Puerto Rico
			<i>Conflict</i>	<i>Hurricanes Fiona and Maria, disaster preparedness, migration, earthquake</i>
				South Carolina
				<i>Disaster preparedness</i>
				South Dakota
				<i>Extreme cold, capacity building, severe storm, tornadoes, COVID-19</i>
				Tennessee
				<i>Tornadoes, flooding</i>
				Texas
				<i>Disaster preparedness, capacity building, migrants, tornadoes</i>
UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN				
Alaska	Mississippi			
Arizona	Missouri			
California	Montana			
Colorado	Nebraska			
Connecticut	New Jersey			
District of Columbia	New Mexico			
Florida	New York			
Georgia	North Carolina			
Hawaii	North Dakota			
Idaho	Ohio			
Illinois	Oklahoma			
Indiana	Oregon			
Iowa	Pennsylvania			
Kansas	Puerto Rico			
Kentucky	South Carolina			
Louisiana	South Dakota			
Maine	Tennessee			
Maryland	Texas			
Massachusetts	Vermont			
Michigan	Virginia			
Minnesota	Washington			
	Wisconsin			

CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT: Hope and Healing

by Linda Sokoley



For anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis, I can give support through phone calls, emails, texts, or 1:1 In-person conversations and prayers. 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 .

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. Available in the church

WNY Church Unleashed

If you are unable to join us for in-person or Zoom worship, you can watch Lutheran worship on Cable TV Channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10 am. "Church Unleashed" is led by Lutheran Pastors Beigner, Griffiths and Smith.

For previous weeks, go to YouTube and search for "WNY Church Unleashed."

Help Wanted: Sidewalk Snowblowing

We are seeking a company or person to keep our sidewalks clear of snow and ice. (We own a snowblower.) If interested, contact the church office.

Covid Health and Safety

If you start to feel sick or test positive for Covid after you have been in church, please contact Beth Kerr (553-0385), trained contract tracer.



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

are available in the church entry hall, or contact the church office and we will gladly mail one to you.



Augustana Lutheran Church 3143 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150

Sunday Worship at 9:30 in the church and on Zoom.

Contact the church office for a Zoom invite.

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

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

www.augustanaonline.org

Facebook @augustanatonawanda Instagram @augustanalutheranchurchtonny