



## Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER June 2022

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

*Sharing the love of Jesus in our changing world.*

### *Pastor's Ponderings*

"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!"

I write this, days after the terrible shooting in Buffalo. I, with all western New York and the country, have come face to face with ideologies that are evil and that do not have a place in our society. White supremacy and conspiracy theories promote fear and division and are wrong. As we can see from Paul's letter to the Colossians, becoming new in Christ we are no longer divided but unified. This unity that is hoped for in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior can not be done without recognizing that structures, laws, and actions that we take and have in the United States, directly result in the perpetuation of racism and division.

The church can be a place where we can work hard to be a safe place where the difficult subject of Racism can be addressed. In an article from Baylor University's Center for Christian Ethics, it states that the church can provide stability. The ability to stay with a group for a long time. This is needed because to be reconciled to one another we need to practice confession and forgiveness in sometimes a painful way. It takes time and commitment to foster healing and change.

The church can also practice "true Christian hospitality." This is hard work which means, not merely tolerating or being nice to others, but to truly welcome them into all aspects of the community. This hospitality builds community and trust.

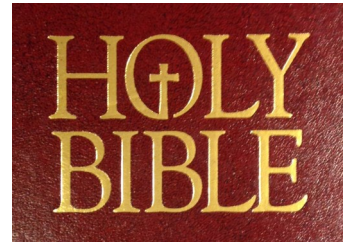
The church can also practice foot washing. This forces us to admit that we are not self sufficient and that we must serve others and accept others' services. When we practice this across racial lines it is a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ.

I am attempting to listen and act so that change can happen for the better. And will pray that racism can be addressed and lessened.

Peace, Pastor Fred Kopp

P.S. As many of you know, I broke a bone in my foot and came down with Covid. I am healing from the broken bone and have recovered from Covid. Thank you all for keeping Anne and me in your thoughts and prayers, and for the many expressions of concern. It is a blessing to be part of a community that cares.

## BIBLE STUDY: PHILIPPIANS



Pastor Fred's next Bible Study is on Paul's letter to the Philippians and will take place from **10—11:30 on these Fridays: June 17 and 24, July 1 and 8.** The sessions will be held in both the church and on Zoom. You may attend any sessions that match your schedule. Contact Pastor Fred to obtain a Zoom invitation: (716) 984-8541 / [augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com).

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## 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 **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 3:00-4:00.** **The next meeting is June 28.** This group is open to all who have cancer or have gone through a cancer journey. For more info, contact the church office and Linda will respond to you as soon as possible: (716) 832-5720 / [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com).

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## WEEKLY PRAYER PARTNER, HOME VISITS

### Message from Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister

**Prayer Partner:** After the service, I can pray with you confidentially at the side altar.

**Home Visits:** I am also able to visit you at home. I will give you communion and can offer prayers or readings.

Masks are required during the Prayer Partner time and home visits. Please contact me if you have any questions. Peace and blessings, Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister

(716) 970-0170 / [s6al99@aol.com](mailto:s6al99@aol.com)

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## SUMMER OUTREACH FOCUS

by Paula Kerr

Thank you for your donations of cereal in May for the Community of Good Neighbors (CGN). We will continue to collect cereal for the next few weeks. Soon, we will give you an updated list of the foods CGN needs most. CGN operates a mobile food pantry in the city, and is one of the many organizations responding to the tragedy in Buffalo. CGN is a ministry of the Lutheran Church and is directed by Pastor Kwame Pitts. Read more about CGN at [cgnbuffalo.com](http://cgnbuffalo.com).

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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. If you would like a book but we have run out, contact the church office and we will make sure you get one as soon as they are reprinted.

## Welcome Johanna!



We are very pleased to welcome the Rev. Johanna Andritz into our Augustana family. She joined the church on May 29.

Originally from this area, Johanna is a recently retired pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Liberty, NY.

Johanna is also the niece of Jim Dennison.



## Thank you, Beth!

Beth Kerr has been a member of our Church Council for 8 years. For the past few years, she has served as President. We are thankful for her leadership and for all of her time.

She is going off Council now, but will continue to participate in committees and in our music program. Her perspective will be missed during Council meetings, but we look forward to her ongoing contributions to Augustana.

## Lutheran Charities Upcoming Events

**Lutheran Charities of WNY** is a human service ministry of the Niagara Frontier Conference (NFC) of the Upstate NY Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Lutheran Charities is a mutual expression of our love and concern for our neighbors. This is accomplished by providing care for people in need and also by giving support to local Lutheran social ministry programs. Lutheran Charities provides a more visible and viable force within our community in terms of dollar amount as well as program support.

**Who We Support:** Augustana Lutheran Church Refugee & Immigrant Driving Program (<https://www.augustanaonline.org/outreach>), Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center (<https://www.lclcenter.org/>), Lord of Life Adult Day Health Center (<https://lordoflifeadhc.us/>), LuMin of WNY (<https://upstatenysynod.org/campus-ministry-wny-buffalo>), Lutheran Youth of WNY (<https://www.lutheranyouthwny.org/>), Matthew's Table (<https://lordoflife.us/how-we-serve>), Peace of the City Ministries (<https://peaceofthecity.org/>), Peaceprints of WNY, Samaritan Counseling Center (<http://sccwny.com/>), and Seneca Street Community Development Corporation (<https://www.senecastreetcdc.org/>).



@ SAHLEN FIELD

**FRIDAY, JULY 22ND**

Evening Events Include:  
Resurgence Brewing Happy Hour @ 5pm  
Game Time @ 7:05 & Postgame Fireworks!

Visit [www.WNYLutheranCharities.org](http://www.WNYLutheranCharities.org) to Learn More



# 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 by talking to Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister: (716) 970-0170 / s6a199@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*

## Gardening News



The gardening team of Paul, Donna and Tom have started making progress in the gardens this season. Paul keeps all of the shrubs near the front door and parking lot looking good, as well as the island bed.

The sunny native plant garden on the Rockland Rd. side is doing well with more than 40 milkweed plants, ready to be hosts for Monarch butterfly eggs. Be sure to stop by after church and check on the milkweed and (hopefully) Monarch caterpillars as the season progresses.

Donna is happy that all but two of the plants in the 'Erie County Native Plant' shade garden came back this year and are thriving. This is the garden next to the wheelchair elevator door, also called the 'drainpipe garden.' Three of the plants are Jacob's Ladder, and three are Christmas ferns, both chosen because their common names have a connection with the Bible.



And things are looking good in the hosta garden, too.

Not pictured are the many weeds in most of the other garden areas. If you can help with weeding it would be gratefully appreciated. No experience needed! If you can help, please contact Donna in the church office: 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

## ***HAPPENING AT ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH: Grief/Share Support Group***

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm from May 4 – July 27 at Abiding Savior, 1534 Ruie Rd., North Tonawanda. For more info. call Karen Hirnle (694-2514) or leave a message at the church (693-0180). You can also learn more at <https://www.griefshare.org>.

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

### **Chiavetta's Dinner Friday, June 17**

The dinner is from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm and it is drive-through only. All dinners are \$14.00 and include two salads, roll and butter. A portion of the dinner proceeds will benefit Hearts and Hands. This is a major fundraiser—please save the date!

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### **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**

Saturday, Oct. 1: 8:30 Breakfast - Programming throughout the day.

Evening for socializing and fellowship

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

#### **Cost and packages: Prices subject to change**

Option 1: Friday through Sunday - room for 2 nights and 4 meals:

One person in a single room: \$170

One person in double room: \$110

Option 2: Friday through Saturday night or Saturday through Sunday

Room for 1 night and 4 meals:

One person in a single room: \$100

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](mailto:schmidtkecharles@gmail.com). Payment due by Sept. 30. Make checks payable to Charles Schmidtke please. Information sheets will be sent to everyone who registers.

## June and July Dates to Remember at Augustana

**June 12 (Sunday):** Congregational meeting in the sanctuary following the 9:30 church service

**June 16 (Thursday):** Council Meeting, Zoom, @7 pm.

**June 17, 24 (Fridays):** 10-11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Philippians, Augustana and Zoom

**June 28 (Tuesday):** Christian Cancer Support Group, 3 – 4 pm, in Augustana and Zoom.

**July 1, 8 (Fridays):** 10-11:30 Pastor Fred's Bible Study, Philippians

**July 10 (Sunday):** Augustana worships at TOL at 11:00, followed by celebration in honor of Pastor Fred's ordination anniversary.

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## Covid Health and Safety Update

Masks are optional. If you have any questions about this, please contact Paulette Hotchkiss 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.

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## Happy Times magazine for children, June and July

Now available in the church entry hall, or you can contact the church Office to have one mailed to you.

The April—June Christ in our Home daily devotional for adults is also available in the church and by mail.



## Worship on Cable TV

Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV Channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Previous services are at <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/> or on YouTube (search for WNY Church Unleashed.)

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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](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)

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