



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER January–February 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

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries.

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not. You help them change their batteries.

Some need:

AA... attention, affection

AAA... attention, affection, acceptance

C... compassion

D... direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine... simply sit with them quietly and share your light.
(internet)

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

Jesus is the light coming into the world from which we get our light. There is so much darkness in the world so there is a great need for sharing batteries, our light, or Jesus, who is the light of the world.

I encourage us to light up our part of the world, like a candle lit in a dark room, and let our light, Christ's light, spread into the darkness of people's lives.

I am planning on practicing sitting quietly and sharing my light.

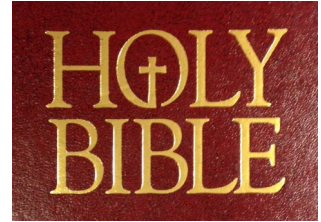
Peace,

Pastor Fred he/him/his

P.S. Anne and I wish every one a blessed new year and thank all for their prayers and kindnesses this Christmas season.

NEXT BIBLE STUDY:

Look for Pastor Fred's next Bible Study which will begin in February. It will take place in Augustana and via Zoom. Email Pastor Fred for a Zoom invite (augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com). You can participate in any weeks that fit your schedule. Hope to see you there!



HOPE AND HEALING: A CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

My name is Linda Sokoley, a recent cancer survivor. I am hosting Hope and Healing, a Christian **cancer support group** at my church, **Augustana Lutheran Church** and via zoom on the **4th Tuesday of every month from 3:00-4:00.**

This is an invitation for you, for members of our church or your friends and family who have cancer or have gone through a cancer journey. The agenda is simple including a Bible reading, prayer and sharing one's journey if comfortable sharing or just listening and finding hope in other's stories. We want to keep the gatherings small and personal.

I am not a professional counselor. I hope to bring people together in Christ and fellowship for comfort and maybe find some peace and friendships. Everything that happens to us has meaning. Every moment of life has purpose, and God doesn't step away from us for a single second of the journey.

For more information, contact Augustana's church office and I will respond to you as soon as possible: (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com.

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Ministry On The Road Report Update - January–February 2022

By Paul Kennedy

I am grateful and happy to report that the Driving Program has received a Lutheran Charities grant of \$9,000 for 2022. This is the same level as last year. Updates will be given soon.

Service to others is life-affirming.

We engage in service as an expression of gratitude to a gracious God.

Outreach: Thank You and Upcoming Collection

By Paula Kerr

Thank you to everyone who supported the fall food drive for Community of Good Neighbors. They were very grateful for your generous food donations. They have a tremendous job of helping those in need all over the area they serve.

Plan ahead for our next drive which will be later this winter. We will be collecting CEREAL only. Many thanks from Augustana Outreach.

...AND THE PANDEMIC ROLLS ON...

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

Just when we think we might be getting out of the woods, a new forest appears. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the livelihoods of people around the world. As businesses paused their work and travel halted, many people—especially those in low-wage jobs—lost their employment immediately. Undoubtedly, everyone reading this knows of someone who is unemployed because of the pandemic.

In India, Sukanti Majhi belongs to the “outcast” caste, so had very little social or economic opportunity to start with. She, her husband and two children moved 650 miles away to find work as bonded laborers, basically slaves. They worked in a brick kiln for five years till the pandemic hit, then lost their jobs. They returned, penniless, to their village. They did receive government assistance, but it was not enough for a family of four. Then she connected with Lutheran World Service India Trust, a partner of ELCA World Hunger that was helping with migrants’ needs. Sukanti received training and material assistance to start her own small grocery shop in her village, the first of its kind. Now, she has an income, and the community has access to goods that were previously unavailable.

“I pray to Almighty God to bless the LWSIT as they helped me for my survival and protected my family during the coronavirus crisis,” Sukanti said. Thanks to your gifts, programs like this one are responding to issues that uproot people from their homes and force them to migrate. **Thank you!**

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

What’s Happening at Trinity Old Lutheran (TOL)

Adult Ed Classes – 2022: Learning about world religions with Charlie Schmidtke.

Classes are held **Mondays at 1 pm**, in the Fireside Lounge and on Zoom.

Judaism: Jan. 17 and 31. Islam: Feb. 14, 28 and March 14.

Native American: March 28 and April 11. African Tribal: April 25. Aboriginal: May 9.

Table Talk Discussion Group: Table Talk will be held on the second Wednesday evening of each month at 6:30 pm, both in the church and on Zoom. Pastor Fred and Charlie Schmidtke will co-host the sessions. The first three sessions will use Charlie’s book to provide topics for discussion (reading the book is not necessary). Hope you can join the group!

Jan. 12: Finding respect for places and the world Feb 9: Respecting others

March 9: Respecting family April 13: Holy week: What does the Last Supper and Resurrection mean to you? May 11: Why do bad things happen to good people?

3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226

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Reminder: Redeem your CANS and BOTTLES at the bottle return store at 1942 Colvin at Brighton. Just put your returnables on the counter and ask the clerk to put it on Augustana’s account. They mail us checks routinely. Thanks!

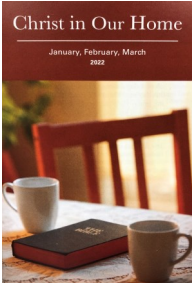
Dates to Remember at Augustana

January 20 (Thursday): Council Meeting, Zoom, @7 pm.

Jan. 25, Feb. 22 (Tuesdays): Christian Cancer Support Group, 3 – 4 pm, in Augustana and on Zoom

Winter Outerwear Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated winter gear! You will make a big difference to all the people who receive the blankets, coats, hats, gloves and more.



Now available

Christ in Our Home daily
devotional for
Jan. -March

and Happy Times for
children; Dec.—Jan.
and Feb.—March.

← Contact the church office to have one mailed to you. →



Worship on Cable TV

Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV Channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Pastors Beigner, Carroll, and Smith lead this worship. You can find previous services at <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/> or on YouTube (search for WNY Church Unleashed.)

Masking Requirements

by Paulette Hotchkiss

Augustana must comply with the mask mandate in Erie County: everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask in the building, even people who are fully vaccinated. The mask must cover your mouth and nose. People attending coffee hour are required to wear a mask in all areas of Augustana except when seated at a table and eating. Tables will be spaced farther apart than previously. If you have any questions or concerns about our worship practices, please contact the Church Office at 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com, and Paulette Hotchkiss will get back 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](https://tithe.ly).
(For information on [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), see our website: augustanaonline.org.)

Augustana Lutheran Church

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