



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER April 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

"We are not citizens of this world trying to make our way to heaven; we are citizens of heaven trying to make our way through this world. That radical Christian insight can be life changing. We are not to live so as to earn God's love, inherit heaven, and purchase our salvation. All those are given to us as gifts; gifts bought by Jesus on the cross and handed over to us. We are to live as God's redeemed, as heirs of heaven, and as citizens of another land: the Kingdom of God... We live as those who are on a journey home; a home we know will have the lights on and the door open and our Father waiting for us when we arrive. That means in all adversity our worship of God is joyful, our life is hopeful, our future is secure. There is nothing we can lose on earth that can rob us of the treasures God has given us and will give us." The Lindisfarne

Paul writes "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. " Romans 12:2

Our Lenten journey is one in which we claim our "child of God" status and face our challenges with confidence and knowledge of God's love. We build up our spiritual muscles to be able to act and say what is needed to further God's loving kingdom. We reflect this Love in our worship and in the service that we do in the world.

This Lent, are we reflecting the kingdom of God that prays unceasingly for all people even our enemies? Are we reflecting a kingdom in which the last shall be first, and shows that God rejoices over all people; the impoverished, oppressed, bullied, and all sinners?

As members of the kingdom of God, let us strive to welcome refugees, work towards, and support peace. Let us continue our calling to serve those in need, praying and joyfully worshipping Jesus our Savior. Let us strive to hold on to the treasures of heaven; forgiveness, eternal life, and the understanding that we never walk alone.

During our Lenten journey let us continue to strive to discern God's will, and to act on it as citizens of God's kingdom.

Pastor Fred

(Lindisfarne was the site of a priory in 7th century England. Many religious works were written over the centuries from Lindisfarne.)

Messages from Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister

We have resumed our **Prayer Partner ministry**. This takes place after the church service at the side altar area. I will pray with you, confidentially. Masks are required. Please talk to me if you have any questions.

I am also blessed to announce that I am building our ministry one prayer at a time. **Visiting the home-bound and sick** is going to be one of my top priorities. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact me. I will give you communion and can share prayers or readings. I will wear a mask. I am looking forward to talking with you soon.

Peace and blessings, Lance Scarafia, Evangelistic Minister.

(716) 970-0170 / ministeraugustana@yahoo.com

HOPE AND HEALING: A CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Linda Sokoley, a recent cancer survivor, 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 April 26**. 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. Each meeting includes a Bible reading, prayer and sharing one's journey if comfortable sharing, or just listening and finding hope in other's stories. For more info, contact the church office and Linda will respond to you as soon as possible: (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com.



Bible Coloring and Story book

Paula Kerr has transformed all of our stained glass windows into pictures that can be colored. The books also include the story for each window.

More details will be available soon.

Thank you to Paula for her devotion to this exciting project!



Lenten Outreach: Diaper Collection

By Paula Kerr

Thank you for all the diapers and diaper supplies that have been donated so far by the people of Augustana. We are continuing to participate in this Synod-wide effort through Easter Sunday. The items donated will be given to the Community of Good Neighbors in Buffalo. You can place your donations in Augustana's narthex.



Opportunity to serve Augustana

We need volunteers to pick up litter and branches on the property. Contact Lance Scarafia if you can be part of this crew: 970-0170 / ministeraugustana@yahoo.com . Thank you.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE SYNOD ABOUT CONGREGATIONAL VOTING



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

This is a summary of information sent to Augustana in the Dec. 15, 2022

"Upstate Update." It is from Jeff Human, lawyer for the Upstate NY Synod:

Hybrid congregational meetings are now prohibited by New York State law. **The congregational meeting must be entirely in person or entirely online.** You may still broadcast the meeting for those who cannot attend, but those who are in the meeting online are not counted in the quorum and are not able to vote.

Hybrid council meetings are permitted under this law.

Augustana's next Congregational meeting is SUNDAY, JUNE 12

It will take place immediately following the worship service in the church. Therefore, in keeping with the new law as stated above, only those in the church during the meeting can vote. Others can listen, but they may not vote. We apologize for difficulties this may cause, but as a church operating in New York State, we are required to follow this new law.

New Members Welcome!

Augustana always welcomes new members. If you are considering becoming a member, or if you would like to learn more about Augustana, please contact Pastor Fred: (716) 984-8541 / augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com.



Save the date: Upcoming Celebration: Sunday, July 10

Pastor is celebrating the 30th anniversary of his ordination this July. To honor this special occasion, the congregations of TOL and Augustana will be worshipping together at TOL at 11:00.

Immediately after the worship service, there will be a luncheon.

Additional details will be given in upcoming months.

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.)

Celebrate Easter at Augustana!



Worship Service

9:30 am in the church
and on Zoom



Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am Rain or shine
(indoors if raining)



Breakfast 10:30 am

Scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, tea, coffee, juice. Cost is by donation that day. Take-out is available (still need to sign up).

All are invited!

Everything is family-friendly and wheelchair accessible. Masks are encouraged when people are not seated at a table. Sign up in the church entry hall or contact the church office by April 10: 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com.

Augustana's New Treasurer

Help us welcome Augustana's new treasurer, Kathy Maishak. She was formally approved at the February Council meeting. Many thanks to Kathy for taking on this important role. Thanks also to Pastor, Paulette, Lance and Tom B. for helping to make the transition smooth.

Prayer for Ukraine From our national Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton

Eternal God, amid turmoil and war your love is steadfast and your strength never fails.
In this time of danger and trouble, be a sure guardian and rock of defense.
Guide the leaders of nations with your wisdom, comfort those in distress,
and grant courage and hope to face the future. Amen.

Aid for Ukraine

We received a notice that gifts to Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine will be doubled through Easter Sunday (up to \$442,000 total) due to generous sponsors. You may make a check out to Augustana (write 'Ukraine Match' in the memo) and we will submit it (or donate via [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly)), or you can donate directly to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061 (write 'Ukraine Match' in the memo), or online at [lwr.org/match](https://www.lwr.org/match). To learn more about how LWR is helping people affected by the war in Ukraine, there is a handout on the table in the narthex, or go to [lwr.org/congregations](https://www.lwr.org/congregations).

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

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

Yaatulo and Mariata grow bananas on a half-acre in Indonesia. With only one harvest per year, their income is very limited, and cannot support their family. Then Yaatulo heard about a community program supported by ELCA World Hunger that allowed him to borrow enough money to buy chili seeds. Over the next two months, Yaatulo and Mariata cleared the land and planted 1000 chili bushes.

Chilis are harvested multiple times a year, and grow quickly, giving farmers more opportunity to sell at the market. Yaatulo and Mariata have doubled their income! He is paying back the loan, and looking forward to being able to afford good education for the two children. He is an inspiration for others in the community, and has offered his experience to those looking to start their own farms.

The ELCA accompanies our neighbors like Yaatulo and Mariata around the world as they work to end hunger and poverty. Thanks to gifts to ELCA World Hunger, farmers have improved access to the tools, training, livestock, seeds and more that will help their families increase farm production and have more to eat and to sell on the market. Your congregation's mission support helps finance these goals. **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: Learn about world religions with Charlie Schmidtke.

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

This is the revised schedule:

April 18: Islam

April 25: Native American Spirituality

May 9: African Tribal Religious experience

May 23: Aboriginal sacredness

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 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!

April 13: Holy week: What does the Last Supper and Resurrection mean to you?

May 11: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Contact TOL for a Zoom invite for the classes or for Sunday worship:

836-4868 / trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226

Worship is at 11:00 on Sundays, in the church and on Zoom.

April Dates to Remember at Augustana

April 6 (Wednesday): Mid-Week Lenten Worship, 7 pm, Trinity Old Lutheran (TOL), 3445 Sheridan Dr., Amherst (btwn Sweet Home and Millersport). Zoom Mtg ID: 822 9609 9066, Passcode: 868728.

April 10 (Palm Sunday): Includes 1st Communion.

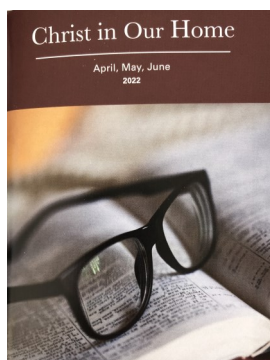
April 15 (Good Friday): Augustana service at 11 am, TOL service at 7 pm. Both also on Zoom.

April 17 (Easter): Augustana service as usual time of 9:30 am, TOL at 11 am. Both also on Zoom.

April 21 (Thursday): Council Meeting, Zoom, @7 pm.

April 24 (Sunday): TOL Congregation worships at Augustana.

April 26 (Tuesday): Christian Cancer Support Group, 3 – 4 pm, in Augustana and on Zoom.



Now available in the church entry hall

Christ in Our Home
daily devotional for
April— June

and

Happy Times
for children,
April—May.

Contact the church office to have one mailed to you.



Masking Recommendations

by Paulette Hotchkiss

Augustana's COVID Health and Safety Committee recommends that the congregation continue to wear masks for the maximum health of everyone in attendance. During coffee hour, we recommend you wear a mask except when sitting at a table and eating. If you feel sick or test positive for Covid after you have been in church, contact Beth Kerr (716-553-0385). Beth is trained as a contract tracer and can help communicate to anyone that has been a close contact while at church. If you have any questions or concerns about our worship practices, 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://www.tithe.ly).
(For information on [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly), see our website: [augustanaonline.org](https://www.augustanaonline.org).)

Augustana Lutheran Church

3143 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150

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

www.augustanaonline.org

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