





# Augustana

## Lutheran Church



### The Parish Visitor

The Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church Hobart, IN

March 2026

#### Services

**Sundays**

**8:00 & 10:00 am**

**Live on Facebook and In-Person**

#### Sunday School

**9:00am – 9:45am**

**(Sept. thru May)**

#### Church Office Hours

**Mon – Fri**

**9am – 1pm**

**219-942-3574**

**Rev. Scott Mauch**

**Pastor**

**765-343-2275**

**Chaplain Chris Williams**

**Youth & Family Lay Minister**

**219-798-9483**

**David Wilson**

**Council President**

**219-712-9800**

**Sidsel Lindborg**

**Interim Organist**

**Melinda Reinhart**

**Choir Director**

**Kristin Sturgeon**

**Handbell Director**

**Jackie Fitzgerald**

**Office Manager**

**Vacant**

**Property Manager**

**Sue Sutton**

**Custodian**

**Victoria Caldwell**  
**Assistant Custodian**



**Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Palm Sunday. In this service we go to Bethphage, the place where the ride into Jerusalem on a donkey begins for Jesus. It is here where we discover that Jesus is a humble King who serves as he heads toward the cross.**

**March 29, 2026**

**Join us for Worship at 10am**

## Thoughts from the Pastor...

### Living in the Promise: A Lutheran Understanding of Lent

As we enter the season of Lent, we step into a sacred time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. For forty days—mirroring Jesus' forty days in the wilderness—the Church journeys toward the cross and the empty tomb. In the Lutheran tradition, Lent is not a season of earning God's favor, but of returning again to the grace already given to us in Christ.

Lent begins with a solemn reminder: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words ground us in truth. We are mortal. We are sinners. We are dependent entirely on God's mercy. Yet even in that sobering reality, there is hope. The ashes traced in the shape of a cross proclaim that our sin and death are not the final word—Jesus is.

A distinctly Lutheran understanding of Lent is shaped by the theology of the cross. Martin Luther taught that we see God most clearly not in displays of worldly power, but in the suffering and crucifixion of Christ. During Lent, we are invited to look honestly at our brokenness and at the brokenness of the world—but always through the lens of the cross. There we see both the depth of our sin and the greater depth of God's love.

Lent is often associated with spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lutherans affirm these practices—not as ways to impress God, but as ways to discipline our hearts. Fasting helps us recognize our dependence on God. Prayer reorients us toward His promises. Generosity loosens our grip on possessions and opens our hands to serve our neighbor. These practices do not make God love us more; they help us trust the love He has already poured out.

At its heart, Lent is about repentance. In Scripture, repentance means turning—turning away from sin and turning toward God. Each week in worship, we confess our sins and hear the words of absolution. This rhythm reflects the heartbeat of Lent: honesty about our sin and confidence in God's forgiveness. We do not wallow in guilt. We confess, we are forgiven, and we are set free.

Lent is also deeply baptismal. In baptism, we were united with Christ in His death and resurrection. The old sinful self is drowned, and a new creation rises each day. Throughout this season, we remember that our lives are hidden with Christ. The journey to Good Friday and Easter is not only something we observe; it is something we live.

As we walk together through this season, may we embrace Lent not as a burden, but as a gift. It is a time to slow down, to listen, to reflect, and to cling more tightly to Christ. The road may lead to the cross—but the cross always leads to resurrection.

In repentance, in trust, and in hope, we journey toward Easter.

Peace,  
Pastor Scott



We remember in prayer our brothers and sisters in Christ, our shut-ins, our hospitalized, ill or recovering, and all our men and women serving in the military.

#### Deaths

Robert (Bob) Rodgers

#### Baptisms

None in February

#### First Communion or Confirmation

None in February

#### Weddings

None in February

#### Hospitalized

Jim Fay  
Linda Wozniak  
Fred Larson

#### New Members

None in February

#### Visitor Deadline

**Deadline to get  
articles into the  
April Visitor  
Is  
March 22nd**

# Committees & Gatherings

## Altar Guild for March

Patty Snyder & Carol Trethewey

## Offering Stewards

Jenni Roberts, Monica Deck, Chuck Daniels, Walt Yovanovich & Paul Allen

## Birthday Offerings

Lila Johnson, Kay Rieck, Joyce Daniels, Donna Roth, Fred Larson, Amber List, Odin Williams, Carole Carlson, Carrie Disney, Donna Drasich, Michelle Allan, Karen Rieck

## Worship & Music

Worship & Music meets March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm. Come join us. We are always looking for new members!

## Bible Study

Pastor Scott has a Bible Study that meets every Wednesday morning at 9:00 am. All are welcome!

## Altar Guild

Altar Guild is looking for metal cans the size of what pineapple juice or tomato juice come in. No more plastic coffee cans.

## Sunday School

Sunday School meets every Sunday from 9:00-9:45am, in the Social Hall. Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome.

## Grief Share

A new session of Weekly Grief Share classes start on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> thru April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8:30pm at Augustana Lutheran Church. Please contact Chaplain Christopher Williams at [Chrstphrw800@aol.com](mailto:Chrstphrw800@aol.com) or call 219-798-9483. You also can register at [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup)

## Augustana Food Baskets

Next food pantry is **March 17<sup>th</sup>** we helped 12 families in the Month of February & 4 walk-in. **Augustana Families**, There are food pantry bags available anytime to be picked up or you can pick one up on Sunday leaving church and we are accepting monetary donations too. We are giving gift cards and non-perishable food to our food pantry people. We appreciate all of the support we receive from our Augustana family. **Please try to help if you are able. We also need Monetary Donation's! Thank You for all you do!**

## Augustana's Website

**Visit our WEBSITE!**  
**[augustanahobart.com](http://augustanahobart.com)**  
(A great way to view the worship service and weekly news, if you can't make it to church).  
**Also, look us up on Facebook @ Augustana Lutheran Church ELCA. It's a great way to communicate and stay connected. (This is our private page.) Watch Sunday morning services at 10:00 am on Facebook – AugustanaLutheranChurch-Hobart**

## 2026 Flower Chart

I just wanted to remind everyone, that when you sign up for flowers please sign up on the flower chart in the hallway as well as fill out the white paper located below the flower chart. Return the white paper into the church office, so it can be put into the church bulletin correctly! Also, please take a flower fund envelope to be used to put the money in for the flowers. Thank you for your cooperation! If you could help sign up for flowers in March, April & May it would be greatly appreciated!

## Please Call

Please call the church office to make us aware if you or a loved one has been admitted to the hospital. Although some hospitals ask about your church affiliation during the admitting process, they do not always call to let us know that you are there.

## Noisy Offering

On the last Sunday of every month the Sunday school children will be collecting loose change from the congregation during the offering. The money collected is used to for Evangelism and to promote Augustana's ministry to our community.

## Donut Angel

We are looking for **2 or 3 people** to be the Donut Angel in **March**. Jackie Fitzgerald took donuts to Centier Bank on Main St., in Hobart. Would you like to be a Donut Angel? See Jackie in the church office. It's a lot of fun!!

## Make a Change

Noisy Offering is the last Sunday of Every Month!  
Our February offering was \$

## The Way of the Cross

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death. The Stations of the Cross recreates Christ's walk to Calvary within the walls of the church, allowing the faithful to make a "pilgrimage to Jerusalem" and be drawn closer to the Christ who walked there. Through grace and our union with His suffering, we can learn to offer up our struggles out of love for others. Praying through the Stations of the Cross is a powerful experience that helps you understand Jesus' love and sacrifice for you. Meditating on the Stations of the Cross exposes Christ's suffering heart and teaches us to have more compassion for those who suffer. It helps us to examine our conscience and learn to be patient in situations of unavoidable suffering.  
Come join me Thursday evenings at 4pm during Lent in the Sanctuary as we enter deeper into the Passion of our Lord.  
Yours in loving service,  
Chaplain Chris

## S.A.M. Report March 2026

### Lent: Journeying by Stages

In the book of Exodus chapter 17 we hear that “the whole congregation (of Israelites) journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded.” That line feels made for Lent.

Lent is not a spiritual sprint. It is not instant transformation. It is a journey by stages. Slowly. Unevenly. Sometimes faithfully. Sometimes fearfully. That is how God leads a people. That is how God leads a soul.

In the wilderness, Israel arrives at Rephidim and there is no water. Just dryness. Real thirst. Real anxiety. They quarrel and blame, but beneath it all is the deeper question: “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Lent invites us to admit that this is our question too.

Is the Lord among us in my restlessness?

In my disappointments?

In my fears about the future?

Repentance begins there. Not with pretending we are fine, but with honest thirst.

And here is the surprise of grace: God does not punish their fear. He says, “I will be standing there on the rock.” Not in an oasis. On a rock. A hard, dry place. Lent is about meeting God on the rock.

Repentance is not harsh self-condemnation. It is a turning. A loosening of our grip on Egypt. In the wilderness, the people begin to romanticize their captivity. They forget the chains and remember the meals. We do the same. We romanticize old habits, old resentments, old securities.

Self-denial in Lent is not about punishing ourselves. It is about refusing to go back. It is about letting false securities fall, by stages.

By stages, we release control. By stages, we surrender pride. By stages, we let go of the need to win or to be right.

When we feel dry inside, we become reactive. We throw words. We throw suspicion. Lent invites us to notice our stones before we pick them up. What if repentance this season looks like this:

Choosing patience instead of panic.

Choosing generosity instead of hoarding.

Choosing listening instead of reacting.

Choosing mercy instead of keeping score.

The heart of the wilderness story is simple: God’s presence is based on God’s promise, not on our perception. They perceived lack. They perceived abandonment. But the promise had not evaporated.

Fear says, “If I do not see it, it must not be there.” Faith says, “God has promised.”

The wilderness is not proof of abandonment. It is often the classroom of trust. It is where illusions fall away and deeper trust grows. The story does not end with accusation. It ends with water flowing from a rock. What looks hard becomes life.

That is the shape of Lent.

Yours in loving service,  
Chaplain Chris

## March Birthday's

4 - Remington Eckrich  
7 - Mrs. Claire Sudroff, Mrs. Sherry Mauch  
8 – Ms. Hannah Wilson  
10- Mr. Eric Wietbrock, Mr. Paul Palichuk Jr.  
11- Ms. Maddie Whiteman,  
Ms. Paige Cooper,  
Ms. Rebecca Nelson  
13- Mr. Kynan Krause  
14- Mr. Payton Disney  
18 - Mrs. Kathleen Eaton,  
Mr. Paul Strietelmeier,  
Mr. Will Dopiriak  
19 –Mr. Joseph Zaradich  
21 - Michael Caldwell  
23 –Mrs. Penny Allen  
24 –Ms. Mary Ann Morales  
27 - Mrs. Karen Freckelton,  
Mrs. Tamara Johnson, Mr. Corey Dennis,  
Ms. Marissa Doepping  
28 - Mr. Walter Yovanovich,  
Mr. Herb Johnson  
30 – Mrs. Joyce Crizer

## Church Council Notes February 11, 2026

### Staff Reports

**Pastor-** Pastor Scott shared that the Church's membership has increased over the past three years.

**Chaplain/SAM-** Chris was not present. He was in Indianapolis finishing his master's classes.

### Ministry Reports

**Worship-** "Places of the Passion" program will be used during Lent. Posters will be displayed in the Church about the different places that will be discussed. There was discussion about making sure that someone making an announcement uses a microphone so online viewers can hear them. The new pianist, Daniel Greyvolt is doing a fantastic job!

**Serving-**The Committee has been discussing fundraiser options to help contribute to the rest of the Window replacement balance. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, members can make blankets for the nearby nursing homes. Anyone interested should be bring some shears to use.

**Building-**Lightbulbs have been changed as well as some carpet has been mended. The windows will be installed in June and should take two weeks.

**Next Church Council Meeting, March 11, at 6:00 pm**

## Thank You

**Dear Jacqueline & the Augustana Donut Angels,**

Thank you so much for the box of donuts. They were a great surprise and really hit the spot!! 😊 I love your idea – it really touched our hearts – we can use ALL the prayers!

Hobart Downtown Centier

Marsha

**Augustana Lutheran Church,**

Thank You so much for all the Christmas presents for Cohen. They were all so thoughtful & intentionally like you knew him personally. Being the kid of a social work momma who works so hard, sometimes he gets left out. I appreciate you sending love, gifts & care for our family.

Kristen & Cohen

## Lenten Worship Services & Soup Suppers

**Wednesday Lenten Services are  
March 4, 11, 18, & 25  
at 7:00 pm  
With Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm**

### Lent Soup Suppers

On Wednesday's during Lent, there is a Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, before the service at 7:00 pm. Lenten Soup Suppers are scheduled for the following dates at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this time of fellowship! Your help is welcomed. If you are not on one of the listed committees and would like to individually provide a menu item, please check the menu sign-up sheets in the hallway or contact the chairperson of the scheduled committee(s). Thank You!

March 4th  
Worship & Music / Bell Choir /Chancel Choir

March 11th  
Foundation / Property

March 18th  
Council / Caring

March 25th  
Congregation

**All church members are more than welcome to help out with all of the Soup Suppers.**

### Self-Denial Giving Boxes

Self-Denial giving boxes will be passed out on Ash Wednesday or you can also get them from the Ushers anytime during Lent. **Take time today to think about your Lenten journey and how you are preparing yourself for Christ's coming in your heart at Easter. Think about prayer, fasting and almsgiving and find ways to fulfill each area of preparation during this season.**

## Augustana's New Pianist

### Getting To Know Daniel Grayvold

Daniel is a multimedia artist originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. His award-winning creative work spans various industries: music composition, sound design, photography, web development – and more. Prior to Augustana, he has been involved with church music for over fifteen years. Currently he works with GreatNews.Life in Valparaiso, building the future of hyper-local positive news in addition to freelancing. Outside of work, Daniel is an avid reader, cook, and horror-comedy movie enthusiast.

Please join us in welcoming Daniel to the Augustana Community and as God to bless this new day in our ministry!

You can learn more about Daniel and explore his music and other projects at [dgrayvold.com](http://dgrayvold.com)



## The Caring Committee Ministry

### Hobart Humane Society

The Hobart Humane Society is a great place to volunteer. Dogs benefit from volunteers assisting the staff with walking and playing. Volunteers do need to be 18 years or older. Please call ahead at 219-942-0103 to schedule a time.

The animals are in need of the items listed below. Please drop off items directly to the Hobart Humane Society at 2054 IN 130, Hobart which is open Monday through Wednesday 11:00 to 4:00, Thursday closed, Friday through Sunday 11:00 to 4:00.

gently used blankets

gently used towels

bleach

dog and cat food

paper towels

Caring (Committee) Ministry

### Blessing Box

Peyton Griffith brought the blessing box to Augustana with the idea of providing food for individuals who are living in their vehicles or do not have access to kitchen appliances. When donating please consider items that can be opened easily such as soup cans with pop tabs, pouches of tuna, and items that can be resealed. We appreciate your continued support.

Caring (Committee) Ministry

### BUNCO

On Sunday, February 22, 2026, the Caring Committee held its first blanket-tying event for the residents of The Residence at the Waters in Hobart. With the help of 12 wonderful volunteers, we created 10 cozy blankets. Your generosity made this possible, and these blankets will be used as bingo prizes for the residents-- a small gesture that will bring smiles.

We are also excited to share our next endeavor with you. The Caring Committee will be hosting a Bunco Fundraiser on Friday, May 1st, with a \$30 donation, to help support the cost of the new church windows. No experience needed-- Bunco is easy to learn, full of laughter, and a great night out for everyone. We hope you'll join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and community support.

With gratitude and blessings,

The Caring Committee  
Andrea, Becky & Sarah

Augustana's Caring Committee  
Presents:

**New Windows &**



Cost: \$30 Per Player

**Friday, May 1st**

**6:00 p.m.**

**WIN CASH &  
PRIZES**

## Thank You

### Dear Beloved People of Augustana,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the overwhelming support you have shown. I am deeply humbled and profoundly grateful. What moved me most was not simply encouragement directed toward me, but the number of you who showed up. Your presence speaks clearly: you care deeply about the future of Augustana and the ministry we share.

I also want to acknowledge those who feel strongly about following the proper procedures for calling a pastor. Please know that your voice matters deeply. Faithful discernment takes time, conversation, and prayer. I am fully committed to being transparent, cooperative, and patient as we walk through whatever steps are necessary to discern who God is calling to lead Augustana into the next chapter of our rich and faithful history.

Thank you for your love, your passion, and your trust. I am grateful to serve alongside you.

With humility and hope,

Chaplain Chris

### Dear Augustana Parishioners,

You're a lifesaver! Thank you for joining us in our mission to build and strengthen pet families. You truly are essential to the life-saving work at Humane Society of Hobart.

We received your generous gift of \$95.00 dollars on February 9, 2026. Your kindness inspires us to continue the work at HSH that your support makes possible.

We look forward to keeping in touch to keep you updated on the lifesaving work we do together. Be sure to visit our website at [www.hshobart.org](http://www.hshobart.org) to see what events are coming and view the adorable animals looking for their second chance.

With Gratitude,  
Jenny Webber  
Executive Director

### Augustana Church Family

On behalf of our father Bob Rodgers, we would like to thank his Augustana Church Family for all they did to help him be with his wife Doris. Special thanks to Chaplain Chris for his kind words, preparation, and support during a difficult time. Thank you Daniel for your musical contributions which meant a lot to our father and our family. Many thanks to the Ladies of Augustana who provided the outstanding luncheon and to all the members who donated food for family and friends.

Bob and Doris both loved the Augustana family. We got to hear many stories about Dad from his Augustana Family which gave us an even better insight as to how passionate he was about his church. Of course we all grew up in this Church with both Dad & Mom and the memories we have will be priceless. Thank You Augustana Family past and present for all that you have done for our Father and his family.

David Rodgers, Don Rodgers, Lori Galbraith



## **Venture to VU by Colette Williams**

**Looking for something to do in the area while waiting for the Spring weather to arrive. Visit Valparaiso University to walk the campus or take in a show.**

### **Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra Concert**

featuring 2025 Concerto Competition winners

Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

### **Guest Artist Recital: Evan Mitchell, piano**

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

**Looking into April, there are a few concerts to put on your calendar!  
All concerts are free unless noted otherwise.**

### **Jazz Festival**

April 22-25

Feature performance to begin at 7:30 p.m.

University Theatre

To purchase individual tickets, [shop online](#) or purchase in person at the Center for the Arts.

### **The Bach Institute presents: Bach–Cozzolani–Mozart**

Saturday, April 25, 3:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

The Valparaiso University Chorale, the Bach Choir, and a professional period-instrument orchestra will perform J.S. Bach's cantata *Der Herr denket an uns*, BWV 196; Chiara Margarita Cozzolani's *Laetatus sum*, and W.A. Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, KV 339.

**Thank you to everyone that joined the Caring Committee to make blankets for the residents at The Waters! We had a great time! ♥**



## AUGUSTANA'S FOUNDATION

### Educational Grant Applications

The Lindholm Burke Grant Applications can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office or on the church website at [augustanahobart.com](http://augustanahobart.com). We welcome applications from anyone in the congregation that is a graduating senior in high school with plans to attend college or trade school, a returning student to college or trade school and those members planning on returning to school later in life. The deadline for turning in a completed application is **Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2026**.

The following criteria will be used to select the educational grant recipients.

- 1 – Active Participation within Augustana Lutheran Church
- 2 – School Performance and Activities
- 3 – Community Service

There will be one Lindholm/Burke Grant recipient named in 2026 who will receive a \$1,500 grant renewable for 3 additional years or the duration of their studies if less than 3 years. This recipient must simply submit a letter each year summarizing their college experience and activities by the application deadline.

Special Educational Grants of \$750 each may be given out at the discretion of the Foundation. These recipients are welcome to reapply each year during their studies.

### Caring Ministry Making Tie Fleece Blankets



## News from the Property Committee

Property Committee News,

Wonderful things are happening in God's House.

The congregational vote at the Annual Meeting about new windows for the entire church, was unanimous!! 74 - 0. We are expecting installation to begin sometime in June.

The Spring Property Work Party is Saturday, May 9th at 8:00 am. There's a list of tasks for all skill levels, including preparing the church for the new windows.

The church is looking for people with green thumbs. There are 3 vegetable garden boxes and an easier watering system has been set up. The church also needs volunteers to weed the landscaping around the church building and parsonage.

The cardboard recycling bin has been moved to the north end of the parking lot for easier access.

The next property meeting is Thursday, March 5th at 4:00. Come join the group that takes care of God's House. You might even learn a new skill.

## Living Lutheran

*We heard you—and listened.*

At the request of Bishop Eaton, we have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication. Beginning in 2025, *Living Lutheran* will again appear in your mailboxes with four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year/per subscriber for a congregation group plan (minimum 10 copies).

## On Line Giving

If you are interested in Online Giving please sign into the link below and create an Account. Please **ONLY USE CHECKING ACCOUNTS** when setting up Online Giving.

Augustana will be charged additional fees if you use a debit or credit card, so we encourage you not to use these.

[osvhub.com/augustanahobart/funds](https://osvhub.com/augustanahobart/funds)

If you would like envelopes to put your offering in, please see Jackie in the office!!

If you switch to online giving, please let Jackie know so she can stop the delivery of your envelopes.

## Paper Recycling Bin

Please bring your **old newspapers, magazines and flattened cardboard** to church with you and drop it off in the Paper Retriever Bin, located in the parking lot. It's being moved to the North side of the parking lot!!

## Pop Tabs, Old Glasses & Cell Phones

We are still collecting pop tabs, old glasses & cell phones. Please bring them in and put them on the table in the hallway by the coat racks.

## Free Magazine's

Did you know that we have free Lutheran magazines in the hallway by the church office for you to pickup?

There's The Lutheran Journal, The Lutheran Message & Christ in Our Home (Quarterly Devotion Book)

# Recipe from the Church Kitchen

## Colette's Corn Casserole

### Ingredients:

- 1 Can Corn (drain most juice)
- 1 Can Creamed Corn
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Stick Melted Margarine (Butter if You Prefer)
- 8 oz Sour Cream (Regular, reduced or fat free)
- 1 Pkg Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix

### Combine all ingredients:

Pour into a round casserole dish sprayed with Pam and Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour until nicely browned on top. Enjoy

Colette/Sidse

## Broccoli Rice Casserole

### Ingredients:

- 1 - 20 oz. package chopped frozen broccoli cooked & drained
- 2 tbsp. minced onion
- 2 cups instant minute rice
- 1 - 9 oz. Fritos mild cheddar cheese
- 1 can cr. mushroom soup
- 1 can cr. chicken soup
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup milk

### Combine all ingredients:

Bake in an oven safe casserole dish. Spray dish with Pam. Mix all ingredients. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 min.  
Jackie

**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
**207 N. Kelly St.**  
**Hobart, IN 46342**  
**219-942-3574**

**US Postage**  
**Paid**  
**Non Profit**  
**Hobart, IN**  
**Permit No. 68**

To the Family of:

**Attention!!**  
**Please Return Survey**  
**Inside!!**