



Augustana Lutheran Church



The Parish Visitor

The Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church Hobart, IN

April 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

Daniel Grayvold

Pianist

Melinda Reinhart

Choir Director

Kristin Sturgeon

Handbell Director

Jackie Fitzgerald

Office Manager

Vacant

Property Manager

Sue Sutton

Custodian

Victoria Caldwell
Assistant Custodian



He is
RISEN



ALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS ALIVE!

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 29th Worship at 10am

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd Worship at 7pm

Good Friday, April 3rd Worship at 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 5th

Breakfast Begins at 8:30am, Easter Egg Hunt 9:15am

Easter Sunday, April 5th Worship at 10am

Thoughts from the Pastor...

As April arrives, we find ourselves once again standing at the threshold of the empty tomb—a place where sorrow and hope meet, where death gives way to life, and where God's promises are fulfilled in ways beyond our imagining. Easter is not just a day on the calendar; it is the heartbeat of our faith. It reminds us that no darkness, whether in our personal lives or in the world around us, has the final word.

This year, we celebrate Easter at a time when our world continues to wrestle with uncertainty. We see ongoing conflicts between nations, deep divisions within communities, and the weight of economic and social challenges that touch even our own neighborhoods. Closer to home, many carry personal burdens—grief, illness, anxiety, or strained relationships. It can sometimes feel as though Good Friday lingers longer than we expect.

And yet, Easter speaks directly into this reality.

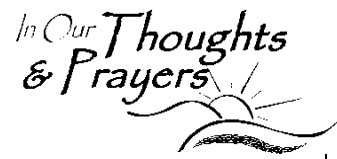
The resurrection of Jesus is not a denial of suffering—it is God's answer to it. The risen Christ still bears the marks of the cross, reminding us that God does not stand distant from our pain but enters into it fully. And still, the tomb is empty. Life breaks forth. Hope is not extinguished.

This is the promise we carry into April: that God is still at work, bringing renewal where we see only endings. In a world filled with headlines of conflict and uncertainty, we are called to be people of resurrection—people who live with courage, who speak words of peace, who act with compassion, and who trust that even small acts of love matter in God's kingdom.

As a congregation, this season invites us to reflect on how we embody that hope together. Whether through worship, service, or simple acts of kindness, we participate in God's ongoing work of renewal. Easter reminds us that what we do in faith is never wasted. Seeds planted in love will, in time, bear fruit.

So, as we move through this month, may we not rush past the wonder of Easter morning. May we carry its light into our homes, our workplaces, and our community. And when the world feels heavy, may we return again and again to this truth: Christ is risen, and because He lives, hope lives too.

Grace and peace to you this Easter season.
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

None in March

Baptisms

None in March

First Communion or Confirmation

None in March

Weddings

None in March

Hospitalized

Linda Wozniak

New Members

None in March

Visitor Deadline

**Deadline to get
articles into the
May Visitor
Is
April 19th**

Committees & Gatherings

Altar Guild for April

Lois & Sarah MacMillon

Offering Stewards

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

Birthday Offerings

Sheryll Bennett

Worship & Music

Worship & Music meets April 7th 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 5th grade are welcome.

ATTENTION!

Work/Clean-up Day is Saturday May 2nd from 8am-12noon We need Your Help!

Augustana Food Baskets

Next food pantry is **April 21st** we helped 12 families in the Month of March & 2 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

(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 **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 **April**. Jackie Fitzgerald took donuts to Centier Bank on Main St., Kathy Holland took donuts to Pain Management at St. Mary's. Karen DaVaney took donuts to CVS. 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 March offering will be collected on March 29th. Thank You!!

Grief Share

A new session of Weekly Grief Share classes start on Thursday, January 29th thru April 23rd from 7-8:30pm at Augustana Lutheran Church. Please contact Chaplain Christopher Williams at Chrstphrw800@aol.com or call 219-798-9483. You also can register at griefshare.org/findagroup Look inside for more details.

Please Return Survey!!

Inside your March visitor was a survey to fill out. If you haven't turned in your survey, Please turn it in ASAP!!

S.A.M. Report April 2026

Easter Reflection: Two Betrayals, Two Paths

As we walk through the story of the Passion and arrive at Easter morning, the Gospel invites us to look honestly at the human heart. Two disciples stand out in the final hours of Jesus' life. Both loved him. Both failed him. Both betrayed him in moments of fear. Yet their stories end very differently. One is Judas. The other is Peter.

Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned. The weight of what he had done fell heavily on his conscience. Scripture tells us he was seized with remorse. Remorse is a deep and painful awareness that we have done something terribly wrong. It is the ache of guilt, regret, and self-reproach that can consume the soul. Judas felt this deeply. But instead of turning toward mercy, he turned inward toward despair. He carried his guilt alone. The tragedy of his story is not simply that he betrayed Jesus. The tragedy is that he could not believe forgiveness was still possible for him.

Peter's story begins with the same kind of failure. On the night of Jesus' arrest, Peter denied even knowing him. Three times he disowned the one he had promised to follow faithfully. His courage collapsed under the pressure of fear, the fear of disapproval, of being singled out, of suffering the same fate as Jesus. Peter also felt the sting of betrayal. When the rooster crowed, he realized what he had done and he wept bitterly. But Peter's story did not end there.

After the resurrection, Jesus sought Peter out. Instead of condemnation, Jesus offered restoration. Three times Jesus asked him, "Do you love me?" and three times Peter answered yes. In that moment Peter received what Judas never allowed himself to receive: forgiveness.

The difference between these two men is not the seriousness of their sin. Both failed. Both betrayed the Lord. The difference lies in what they did afterward. Judas remained trapped in remorse. Peter allowed his remorse to become repentance. Repentance is different from despair. Repentance turns us toward God. It leads to confession, to receiving grace, and then to living differently. Peter went on to spend the rest of his life making living amends through faithful service to Christ and to others.

The truth is that every one of us carries a little of both disciples within us. There are moments when fear, self-protection, or the desire for approval leads us to deny what we know is right. Sometimes we betray our deepest values. Sometimes we betray the call of Christ in our lives. Sometimes we even betray ourselves by ignoring our own conscience in order to avoid conflict or please others.

But Easter tells us that failure is not the end of the story. The resurrection reveals a God who seeks out those who have fallen. The risen Christ meets people not with rejection but with mercy. The same forgiveness offered to Peter is offered to us.

So when we recognize our failures, we do not need to remain trapped in guilt or self-condemnation. Instead we can follow Peter's path. We can confess honestly, receive God's forgiveness, learn from our mistakes, and move forward in a new way of living.

Easter is not only about what happened to Jesus. It is about what becomes possible for us. Through Christ, betrayal does not have the final word. Grace does. And every new day becomes another opportunity to live as Peter did: forgiven, restored, and committed to walking forward in love, humility, and service.

Yours in Christ,
Chaplain Chris

April Birthday's

- 4 - Mrs. Melissa Gonzalez
5 - Mr. David Buczek, Mr. Gerald Ksenak
Mr. Tim Mueller
7- Mrs. Rachel Wietbrock
13 - Mrs. Jessica Caldwell
14 – Mr. Anthony Gilyan, Mr. Wayne Lute
15 – Ms. Jenna Burton
Ms. Karen Brenner
16 – Ms. Anne McDonald,
Mr. Kenneth Edmond
17 – Mr. Troy Brown
18 - Mrs. Shirley Isolampi
20 - Mrs. Kristin Bonez
21 –Ms. Sarah MacMillan
22 - Mr. Mike Ritter
Mrs. Marilyn Pearson
23- Mr. Randall Griffith Sr.
24 - Mrs. Jackie Fitzgerald, Nicole Guzek
25- Kate Bonez
26 - Mrs. Jennifer Roberts, Kenzie Roberts
Mrs. Andrea Rucinski
27 - Mr. David Husek
29 – Ms. Nancy Ferris
Brenley Bonez
30 – Mrs. Paula Isolampi



Council Notes March 2026

Council Notes

Pastor- Pastor Scott shared that the Lenten services are going well. In person attendance was definitely affected by the cold weather in January and February. There are some new followers viewing the services online.

Chaplain/SAM–Chris would also like to create a simple QR code for visitors to use if they want to donate money to the Church. This QR code could be hung up in the narthex or placed in the bulletins/programs. One of the members is planning for a garden and looking for others to help her.

Office Manager – Jackie conveyed that about half of the congregation wants the Church Visitor emailed and about half wants to pick it up at church. A small percentage still want it mailed to them. She will still need volunteers to assemble it monthly.

Financial –There was a suggestion of investing in a security system for the new windows.

Building-There will be a Spring Property Work Party Saturday, May 2nd at 8:00 am.

Next Council Meeting April 8th @ 6:30pm

ATTENTION
Work/Clean-up Day is Saturday
May 2nd from
8am-12noon
We need Your Help!

AUGUSTANA'S FOUNDATION 2026

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. 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 8th 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.

AUGUSTANA'S FOUNDATION

Dear Augustana's Foundation

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 gifts of \$3,000 on December 17, 2025. 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 to see what events are coming and view the adorable animals looking for their second chance.

With Gratitude,
Jenny Webber
Executive Director

We are so grateful for your support. We could never have more than 2,500 lives each year without you!!!

Thank You!!

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



The Caring Committee is so excited to share their 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.

The sign-up sheet is in the hallway. Sign-up in Teams of 4 people.

With gratitude and blessings,
The Caring Committee
Andrea, Becky & Sarah

Thank You

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 gifts of \$330.00 on November 30, 2025, \$ 85.00 on January 12, 2026 & \$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 to see what events are coming and view the adorable animals looking for their second chance.

With Gratitude,
Jenny Webber
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your investment of \$330.00 to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, processed 1/22/2026.

Your support helps us serve thousands of individuals and families who do not have enough food. By coming together as a community, your generosity makes life a little easier and brings hope to those who need it most.

Too many neighbors face hunger and must make hard choices between food, heat, and other necessities. Your donation does more than provide meals; it brings comfort, security, and reassurance that help is available. Because of you, families and individuals can keep their pantries stocked and meet urgent needs.

Your support allows the Food Bank to provide nourishing food and hope to people who face uncertainty every day. You are helping fill tables, ease burdens, and show the power of community. Your kindness ensures that no one in Northwest Indiana has to face hunger alone.

Stay up to date with our work by visiting www.foodbanknwi.org or call (219) 980-1777. Thank You again for supporting the Food Bank and the neighbors we serve.

Sincerely,
Victor A Garcia
President & CEO

Easter Blessings from Chaplain Chris Williams





Venture to VU by Colette Williams

Spring has sprung and the final performances of this VU season are taking place in April. All events are free to the public unless otherwise noted. Come enjoy the Arts at your local college campus. The daffodils are in full bloom!

America 250: Music of the Revolution

Faculty Recital: Anne Marie Bice, soprano

with Joseph Bognar, piano

Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

“Vinegar Tom”

April 16-17, 8:00 p.m.

April 18-19, 2:00 p.m.

University Theatre

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

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.

Musica Viva

Thursday, April 23, 2:00 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

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.

Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra Concert

Sunday, April 26, 5:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Guest Recital: Laurent Jochum, organ

Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Musica Viva

Tuesday, April 28, 2:00 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

Sousa Tribute Concert

Saturday, May 2, 4:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Panera Bread Baked Potato Soup

Ingredients:

| | |
|--|--|
| 2 tablespoons olive oil | 2 tablespoons butter unsalted |
| 1 medium sweet onion diced | 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour |
| 4 cloves garlic minced | 1 cup heavy cream or half and half |
| 1/2 cup cooked bacon bits or crumbs | 4 ounces cream cheese or sour cream room temperature |
| 4 large Yukon potatoes scrubbed peeled and diced | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 teaspoon dried oregano | 1/2 teaspoon black pepper |
| 1 teaspoon dried parsley | |
| 4-6 cups low sodium chicken broth or more | |

Garnish: 2 teaspoons chives
2 tablespoons of real bacon bits
Shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions:

Add olive oil to a hot medium pot or Dutch oven over medium heat.
Add the onion and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
Add garlic and cook until fragrant, for about 1 minute, stirring all the time.
Add potatoes, bacon bits, dried oregano, and dried parsley, and stir to combine.
Add enough chicken broth to cover the potatoes fully. Cook on medium heat for about 12 to 15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork.
Once the potatoes have cooked, add butter to a medium saucepan over medium heat and melt. Whisk in the flour until completely combined, then gradually add the heavy cream. Whisk the flour mixture until smooth. With the heat on the lowest stove setting, let the mixture cook until it starts to simmer and is getting thicker, stirring occasionally.
Add the flour mixture to the potatoes and gently stir to combine.
Mash half of the potatoes or as much as you want using a potato masher. You can also add the soup to a blender or use an immersion blender.
Add the cream cheese or sour cream and stir until it melts.
If the soup is too thick, add more chicken broth.
Season with salt and black pepper. Taste and adjust.
Garnish with chives, bacon bits, and cheddar cheese. Serve and enjoy!

Notes:

Making the soup ultra-creamy

I recommend mashing half of the cooked potatoes for that velvety rich texture that we all the Panera Bread Baked Potato Soup for. The starch from the mashed potatoes will naturally thicken the soup without sacrificing flavor. Also, I recommend making a roux with butter, flour, and cream for the best results, which will add extra creaminess to the soup. Also, add the cream cheese at the end to keep the soup smooth and prevent curdling.

More tips to consider:

Instead of using a potato masher, use an immersion blender or pour it into a food processor or blender to mash.
Cook the potatoes until done, not mushy.
Mashing half (or more) of the potatoes gives this soup its irresistible creaminess.
You can use half-and-half and Greek yogurt instead of heavy cream and cream cheese for fewer calories and less fat.
You can shorten the prep time by using store-bought bacon bits. However, they will not be as flavorful as the fresh ones.
Peel and dice potatoes into small dice before cooking for the best texture and taste.

News from the Property Committee

Property Committee is having a work party on Saturday, May 2, 2026 8:00-12:00

There are work tasks for all skill levels.

Many hands are needed for maintenance, landscaping and preparing the church for the installation of new windows in June.

Donuts and coffee are at 8:00 and sloppy joes will be served at noon.

Our new windows for the church are scheduled to be installed in June. There may be a few disruptions to our normal church operations but we will try to keep you informed any changes.

Please consider becoming a Property Committee member. We can always use an extra pair of hands to take care of God's House. The meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 4:00.

News from Garden Committee

"We are excited to announce that our church community garden is expanding! This year, we will be growing even more fresh vegetables to share with individuals and families in need throughout our community. If you feel called to support this effort, donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in an offering envelope marked "**Garden.**" We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help tend the garden and serve on the garden committee—your time and dedication mean so much. If you have any questions, please contact **Brandi at 219-214-3014**. Thank you for helping us grow and give back to our community."

Best,

Brandi Arcuri

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

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 junk mail** 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!! **NO MORE CARDBOARD!!**

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

Amber's Grape Dish

4 lbs. of red and green seedless grapes

Blend the following:

8 oz. cream cheese

8 oz. sour cream

¼ cup white sugar

1 Tbsp. Vanilla

Stir blended mixture over grapes

Mix ¾ cup of brown sugar and 1 cup of pecans or walnuts together

Stir into mixture, keep cool.

Nancy Wedig/Amber List

Augustana Lutheran Church

207 N. Kelly St.

Hobart, IN 46342

219-942-3574

To the Family of: