



Augustana

Lutheran Church



The Parish Visitor

The Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church Hobart, IN

September 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

Reverend Christopher

Williams

Pastor

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

Youth & Family Lay Minister

Vacant

Property Manager

Sue Sutton

Custodian

“God’s Work” “Our Hands”



The Caring Committee has been busy planning opportunities for our congregation to put our faith into action. As we prepare for God’s Work Our Hands Sunday, we invite you to join us in supporting St. Jude House in Crown Point, a safe haven for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. St. Jude House provides shelter, advocacy and support to individuals and families as they rebuild their lives.

**Please Join us Saturday, September 5, @ 11:00am to
Help out at
St. Jude House**

12490 Marshall St, Crown Point, IN 46307

Look inside for more information!

Church Picnic is at 11:30 am on September 13th



The church picnic will be inside, please bring a cold side dish to share or a dessert!

We will be playing BINGO!!

Bring a white Elephant Gift

After the Storm: Becoming a Beacon of Hope

The terrible storm that recently swept through our community left behind more than fallen trees, damaged property, and days without electricity. It also left us with an important reminder: **we need one another**. For many of us, the storm disrupted the routines and conveniences we often take for granted. Homes went dark. Food was at risk of spoiling. Communication became difficult. Some people were frightened or uncertain about where to turn. Neighbors checked on neighbors, families helped one another, and our community was reminded how quickly circumstances can change.

In many ways, this storm was a **wake-up call**. Scripture continually reminds us that we were never created to live in isolation. St. Paul tells us that *“we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another”* (Romans 12:5). Community means that when one person struggles, the rest of us do not simply look away. We draw closer.

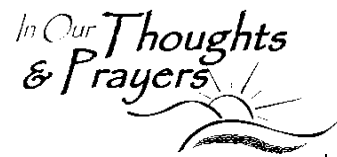
That calling extends beyond the walls of our congregation. Augustana is part of the larger Hobart community, and our neighbors are our neighbors whether they worship with us, worship somewhere else, belong to another faith tradition, or have no religious affiliation at all. When someone is hungry, frightened, overheated, cold, alone, or simply needs a safe place to sit for a while, the first question should not be, *“Are they one of us?”* The question should be, **“How can we help?”** Jesus said, *“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid”* (Matthew 5:14). Being that light means becoming a visible presence of goodness, compassion, hospitality, and hope. Especially when darkness comes unexpectedly.

For this reason, I believe the time has come for Augustana to establish an **Emergency Action Committee**. The purpose of this committee would be to help our congregation prepare before the next emergency occurs. Rather than waiting until another storm, prolonged power outage, extreme weather event, or community crisis happens, we can begin asking important questions now.

How can our church safely provide drinking water and basic food supplies? What emergency supplies should we keep available? How can we check on elderly, homebound, and vulnerable members of our congregation? How can we communicate when electricity or internet service is unavailable? Under what circumstances could our building serve as a temporary place of safety, rest, prayer, cooling or warming, and connection? And how can we work alongside local emergency services and community organizations rather than trying to respond alone? We do not need to have every answer immediately. We simply need to begin.

Preparedness is more than planning for disaster. **Preparedness can be an expression of Christian love**. Keeping water available for someone who is thirsty is ministry. Checking on someone who lives alone is ministry. Offering a safe place during a frightening situation is ministry. Sharing food, charging a phone, listening to someone who is afraid, and praying with someone who needs hope are all ways of embodying the love of Christ.

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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

Penelope “Penny”
Allen

Baptisms

Ember Lawson

First Communion or Confirmation

None in August

Weddings

Michelle Allan &
Walt Yovanovich

Hospitalized

None

New Members

Sheila Everett,
Ally & Don Lubeck,
Jennifer & Paul
Holsclaw

Visitor Deadline

**Deadline to get
articles into the
October Visitor
is
September 24th**

Committees & Gatherings

Altar Guild for September

Jan Buzolitz, Jean Davis & Christine Gray

Offering Stewards

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

Birthday Offerings

Nick Holmberg

Worship & Music

Worship & Music's next meeting is, September 8th at 5:30pm. Come join us. We are always looking for new members!

Bible Study

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

Sunday School

Sunday School starts Sept. 20th from 9:00-9:45am, in the Social Hall. Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome.

Old Computers

Not Sure What to do with Your Old Computers?
I'm willing to clean and recycle old laptops, desktop computers and monitors for any members that don't know what to do with their old systems. Drop them off at Church & Jackie will get hold of me.
Call Carlos Mariani at 219-928-8453.

Augustana Food Baskets

Next food pantry is **September 15th** we helped 12 families in the Month of August & 9 walk-ins. **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

Giving Envelopes / One Call Now

If you are interested in receiving your own giving envelopes, please reach out to Jackie, in the church office.

If you don't need church envelopes, because you give online now, please let Jackie know in the church office. The office number is 219-942-3574.

If you would like to receive calls or text from the church about information in the church or prayers for members, please let Jackie know too.

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 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 **September**. Would you like to be a Donut Angel? See Jackie in the church office. It's a lot of fun!!
Chuck Daniels took donuts to St. Mary's Outpatient Therapy Services in Portage.

Make a Change

Noisy Offering is the last Sunday of Every Month!
Our August offering was \$
Thank You!!

Save The Date!!

**“God's Work” “Our Hands”
September 5th
Look Inside for More Details**

**Church Picnic – 11:30am
September 13th**

**Blood Drive – Sign-up
September 17th**

September Birthday's

- 1 - Mr. David Sudroff,
Mrs. Janet Connell
- 2 - Mrs. Martha DeHart,
Mrs. Linda Wozniak
- 3 - Mr. Brian Rucinski Jr.,
- 4 - Rev. Charles Strietelmeier,
Ms. Bella Gallo
- 5 - Mr. Joseph Barron
- 6 - Axel Bood
- 7 - Mr. Don Nedberg
Mr. Robert Dennis, Ellie Rice
- 8 - Ms. Emily Allen
- 10 - Mrs. Judy Sikora
- 13 - Mrs. Tomi Valdez,
Jacob & Mia Caldwell
- 14 - Mrs. Dawn Morningstar -
Newman,
Mr. Chris Edwards,
Ms. Jennifer Wheeler
- 15 - Mr. Daniel Ittel,
Mrs. Laurie Edmond,
Mr. Leslie Doepping Sr.
- 18 - Ms. Grace Griffith,
Ellyanna Gruett
- 19 - Landon Husted
- 20 - Ms. Jamie Bogdan,
Mr. Ryan Ritter
- 22 - Mrs. Carol Trethewey
- 23 - Mr. Jeff A. Sudroff
- 25 - Lauren Edmond
- 26 - Maybelle Gruett
- 27 - Mr. Dennis Lindborg
- 28 - Mrs. Jennifer Sudroff Geron
Mr. Cardin Sanders,
Mrs. Sarah Griffith,
Zoe Crofton
- 30 - Mr. John Knight,
Mr. Kevin Freeman,
Mrs. Judy Dennis,
Mrs. Mary Hilburger,
Mrs. Kathy Holland,
Rev. Scott Mauch

Church Council Notes August 19, 2026

Staff Reports

Pastor— Chris conveyed that five more individuals will be received into the church on August 23rd. Chris and Brandi will occupy a booth at the upcoming Recovery Riot at Marquette Park. The Wednesday Revelation Bible Study continues to be well attended and has generated excellent discussions. The Wednesday morning Matthew Bible Study also continues with faithful participation.

Office Manager – Jackie shared that Joy's help in the Church office has been wonderful.

Ministry Reports

Worship—Chris would like any members to be lectors and read the bible passages during the services. The viewing of the Church's website has increased. More worship assistants are needed. New members will be introduced at the Church picnic. There was a suggestion for everyone to wear nametags at the Church picnic.

Serving—There is a donation drive for the St. Jude House. These items will be delivered on September 5th. Another Versiti Blood Drive will be on September 17th in the Social Hall. A Pack Away Hunger event will be at Crown Point High School 9:00 am and 12:30 pm on October 10th. A possible Bunco or Bingo fundraiser for the Food Pantry might happen in the fall.

Building—Blinds for the new windows are being installed. The color white has been voted for to paint the middle of the windows.

Unfinished Business

Congregational Picture directory—The directory is a work in progress. Nancy Wedig was commended for taking pictures of shut-ins and of members that were not able to attend the picture sitting dates.

New Business

"God's Work" "Our Hands"—September 5th—The goal is to create a pathway at the St. Jude House in Crown Point as well as helping with any cleaning needed. Other churches will be there too. This event begins at 11:00 and there will be sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Church picnic—September 13th— The potluck picnic will continue to be held indoors. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be grilled. A "white elephant" bingo will also happen again.

Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief—Items will be collected until the end of September.

Emergency Response Action Committee—Chris would like to establish a committee to prepare Augustana to respond safely and compassionately during power outage, severe storms, extreme temperatures and other community emergencies.

Next Church Council Meeting: September 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm

After the Storm: Becoming a Beacon of Hop

Continued from page 2

The recent storm reminded us how vulnerable we can be. But it also reminded us how strong a community can become when people care for one another. My hope is that Augustana will continue becoming what God calls the Church to be, not simply a building where people gather on Sunday mornings, but **a beacon of goodness and a safe place for people in need.**

When the next storm comes, and eventually another will, may our neighbors know that there is a church in their community whose doors, hearts, and hands are ready to serve. May they know there is water here. May they know there is food here. May they know there is prayer here. May they know there are people here who care. And above all, may they encounter through us the love of the God who promises that even in the darkest storm, **we are never alone.**

**In Christ's service,
Pastor Chris**

Worship Service

You're Invited!

Join us for a **30-minute worship service every Thursday from 6:00–6:30 PM.**

It's a wonderful way to worship God, refresh your spirit, and get uplifted in the middle of the week. We'd love to have you join us!

Thank You

Dear Augustana Parishioners,

You're a lifesaver!! Thanks 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 \$65.00 on July 16th, 2026 for May Pets. 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 upcoming and view the adorable animals looking for their second chance.

With Gratitude,
Jenny Webber
Executive Director

Augustana Church Family

I would like to thank Michelle and Brandi, the windows and the garden look marvelous!!
Karen DaVaney

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

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.

“God’s Work” “Our Hands”

The Caring Committee has been busy planning opportunities for our congregation to put our faith into action. As we prepare for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, we invite you to join us in supporting St. Jude House in Crown Point, a safe haven for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. St. Jude House provides shelter, advocacy, and support to individuals and families as they rebuild their lives.

Through August 30, we will be collecting diapers, baby wipes, trash bags, gift cards, and other much-needed household items. Every donation, no matter the size, helps provide comfort and hope to those in need. Thank you for your generosity and for sharing Christ's love with our neighbors.

Please Join us Saturday, September 5, @ 11:00am to Help out at

St. Jude House

12490 Marshall St, Crown Point, IN 46307

Versiti Blood Drive

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Versiti Blood Drive on Thursday, September 17, in the Social Hall. Donating blood is a simple way to make a lifesaving difference. If you are able, we encourage you to sign up, invite a friend, and help us make this drive a success. Appointments can be made online at Versiti Blood Drive Registration.

Pack Away Hunger

Finally, please save the date for our annual Pack Away Hunger event at Crown Point High School on Saturday, October 10, at 9:00 a.m. This is always a meaningful day of fellowship and service as we come together to help feed families around the world. We hope you'll join us as we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

If you have any questions or would like more information about any of these service opportunities, please reach out to a member of the caring committee.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support as we serve our neighbors together.

Respectfully,

The Caring Committee

Andrea, Becky, Michelle and Sarah

The Caring Committee Ministry - Continued

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief is once again collecting Personal Care Kits to distribute to those in need. Please include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

1. **One light weight** bath towel 52" X 27" dark color. NO large or heavy towels. DOLLAR TREE carries these towels in dark colors, and sometimes WALMART has them, which are good bargains! **PLEASE remove packaging & small plastic strips that hold the towels together.**
2. **Two Bath Size** bars of soap, any brand, in original wrapping.
3. **ONE Adult size** toothbrush in original wrapper. Please no multi pkgs of brushes.
4. **ONE wide tooth comb.** Please remove packaging.
5. **ONE metal toenail clipper.** Please remove packaging.

There are plastic Ziploc bags with a list of these items in the Narthex, and a large cardboard box to hold the returned kits. **We will need all the kits turned in to the church by October 4th**, so we have time to assemble, wrap and box them up. This is sooner than usual, but they are being shipped earlier this year.

We appreciate ALL the great participation every year for this project. Our congregation always gives a huge response.

Any questions, or if you would like to help assembling the kits, please contact Jennifer Gould, 219-942-3098 or the Caring Committee. Thank you!



Venture to VU by Colette Williams

Venture to VU in September

The academic year has started and we are officially welcoming Reverend Brian Konkol, Ph.D. as our new President to the university. The Inauguration Ceremony will take place on Friday, September 25th at 3pm with a reception to follow. In order to attend, you must RSVP online at valpo.edu by searching on Presidential Inauguration to find the link.

Homecoming Concert – Welcome Home!

Featuring Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Concert Band

Saturday, September 26, 4:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

The Valparaiso University Chorale, Chamber Concert Band, and Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra will present a concert in the Chapel of the Resurrection on Saturday, September 26 at 4:00 PM.

Fall is a beautiful time to walk the campus. Come for a visit and stay for an event at your Valparaiso University.

New Members



Don & Ally Lubeck & their girls Scarlet & Delilah, Pastor Chris & Brandi, Sheila Everett, Paul & Jennifer Holsclaw

Fun Times at the Railcat's Game





GriefShare

A weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of a family member or friend.

Begins: Thursday, September 3, 2020, from 7:00-8:30 PM
Augustana Lutheran Church - meeting in fireside conference room
13 sessions, Thursday nights, September 3 through December 3, 2026

Registration Fee: no fee, workbook \$20 purchased online or in person

Each session includes a video, featuring interviews with leading authors, counselors, speakers and pastors with years of expertise in grief recovery. There will be opportunities to share your experiences, and listen to others who have also experienced a recent loss. The classes will meet weekly through December 3rd, but you are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each session is "self-contained" so you do not need to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin.

Questions about how GriefShare works? Visit the website - www.griefshare.org.

If you plan to attend, please call the church office and let them know. This will help us in planning our space and materials.

Need more information? Speak to Pastor Chris or call the church office (219-942-3574)



Church Picnic is at 11:30 am on September 13th

The church picnic will be inside, please bring a cold side dish to share or a dessert! We will be playing BINGO!! Bring a white Elephant Gift

We Have Moved

New Address:

**Ruth Wilkinson
237 Azelea Dr.
Hobart, IN 46342**

**Paul Allen
317 Azelea Dr.
Hobart, IN 46342**

**Herb & Lila Johnson
60397 Robin Hood Lane
Elkhart, IN 46517**

**Nancy Ferris
1711 Parklake Dr.
Apt. 1E
Morris, IL 60450**

**USN
Andrew & Kya Clemmons
4315 Topaz Ct.
Apt. 234
La Mesa, CA 91941-8424**

I am sure he would appreciate letters and cards. I am sure his wife, Kya would also appreciate support from the congregation especially when Andrew is out to sea.

**Thank You,
Jane**

Hobart Church Bowling League

Enjoy bowling? The Hobart Church Bowling League will begin its 62nd year of bowling at Hobart Lanes Bowling Alley this year. Our league starts a day after Labor Day each year. **This year it is September 8th at 6:30 PM.** We are a USBC handicap league for both men and women over 18. It makes no difference if you are a seasoned bowler or beginner. If you would like to bowl or just be a sub call Dennis Lindborg at 219-942-9671 or Steve Forsythe at 219-763-7151 for more information.

Sunday School Teachers Needed!!

Do you have a heart for helping children grow in faith? We are looking for volunteers to serve as Sunday School teachers at Augustana Lutheran Church.

Our program meets **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**, and we're creating a **rotating schedule** so that each volunteer serves **just once a month**. Teaching materials and support will be provided, making this a meaningful and manageable way to share God's love with our youngest members.

You don't need to be a Bible scholar—just someone who cares about children and wants to help plant seeds of faith that God will continue to grow.

If you're interested in serving or would like more information, please speak with Pastor Chris or contact the church office. We'd love to have you join this important ministry!

Altar Guild – Fall Meeting

The Altar Guild Fall meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd, at 10:00 am**. We would like to extend an invitation, to anyone interested in joining Altar Guild to attend our fall meeting. This is a great way to get involved and be of service to Our Lord, through the work Altar Guild ladies do, in preparing the Altar for Communion.

Please consider joining us for the meeting in the social hall at 10:00 am. We hope to see some new faces at our meeting and we look forward to serving Our Lord, together. Please contact Patty Snyder at 630-690-6684, if you have any questions.

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.

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

Meatloaf

Ingredients:

2 lb. hamburger
1 (6oz.) box corn bread stuffing mix
2 eggs
2 c. warm water
Herb or Beef flavored bouillon (Optional)
½ lb. shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

Mix hamburger, stuffing, eggs, water, bouillon & cheese. Mix well and spoon into 2 loaf pans sprayed with Pam or form meatloaf in a roasting pan, sprayed with Pam. Cover loaf pans with foil or roasting pan with lid. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Zucchini Bread

Ingredients:

3 eggs	3 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups sugar	1 cup oil
1 tbs. vanilla	2 ½ cups grated zucchini
3 cups flour	1 tsp baking soda
¼ tsp. baking powder	1 tsp salt
¾ cup nuts (optional)	

Mix all ingredients and put in 2 loaf pans, sprayed with Pam. Bake at 325 degrees for 60-70 minutes Makes 2 loaves

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

To the Family of:

Take a Look Inside
Exciting things are
Happening!