



Augustana

Lutheran Church



The Parish Visitor

The Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church Hobart, IN

November 2025

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

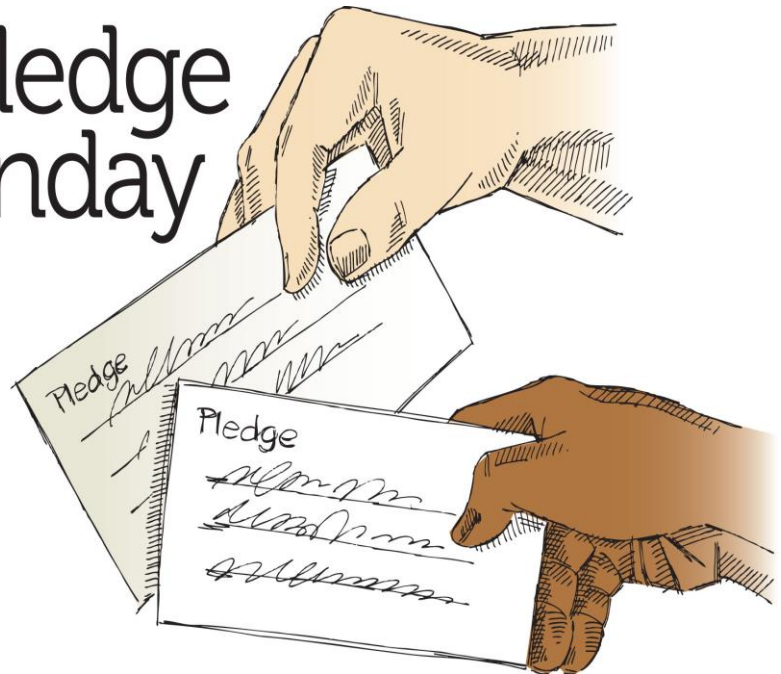
Custodian

Victoria Caldwell

Assistant Custodian

November 23rd is

Pledge Sunday



Our church depends on the faithfulness and generosity of its members. We are grateful for your pledges and offerings. We ask only that when you pledge you challenge yourself in a way that is realistic – that is, you work to grow in generosity while making a commitment you are reasonably certain you will be able to keep. On Sunday **November 23rd** we will receive your pledges. Please come prepared to share your commitment on a pledge card.

Thoughts from the Pastor...

Dear friends in Christ,

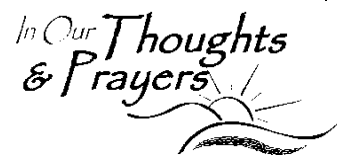
We are entering into the season of the church that we label, “The End Times.” We will hear in church when the disciples had asked Jesus when the end would come. Like us, they wanted to know what signs to look for, how to prepare, what to expect. Jesus’ answer is both sobering and freeing: “no one knows the day or the hour”: Even Jesus, in his earthly humility, does not reveal the end. This passage reminds us that the “end times” are not for us to calculate or control. Every generation of Christians has wondered if their age might be the last. Wars, moral decay, natural disasters, all seem to point to the nearness of Christ’s return. But Jesus shifts our focus away from speculation and toward faithful living. He calls us not to figure out the calendar of God’s plan, but to trust in the certainty of God’s promise.

Let’s look at this idea through the Law of Moses. Jesus compares His return to the days of Noah. People were eating, drinking, marrying, living ordinary lives until the flood came and swept them away. The point is not that these things were sinful in themselves, but that people lived without awareness of God’s coming judgment. They were comfortable, distracted, spiritually asleep. The same danger faces us today. We can become absorbed in the business of daily life—our work, our worries, our routines and forget that history is moving toward God’s appointed end. The Law warns us: *Wake up!* This world is passing away. Our lives are fragile, our time is limited, and eternity is real. To ignore these truths is to live as if God’s promises and warnings do not matter. In Lutheran theology, the Law serves this vital function. It reveals our sin and our complacency. It shows us how easily we drift into spiritual sleep. It confronts our illusion of control, reminding us that we cannot save ourselves, predict the future, or stand before God on our own merits.

However, the gospel tells us that Jesus’ warning is not meant to terrify believers. It is meant to wake us up to hope. The One who will come again in glory is the same Jesus who first came in mercy. The One who will judge the living and the dead is the same Savior who was judged for us on the cross. Our readiness, then, does not depend on perfect vigilance or moral performance. It depends on Christ alone, as Luther would say. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has already made us ready. In baptism, He clothed us with his righteousness. In the Lord’s Supper, he strengthens us for daily faith and service. When Jesus comes again, he will not find strangers but his own beloved children. Those redeemed by grace through faith. So, to “keep watch” means not to live in fear, but to live in faith. It means to trust Christ’s promises, to walk in daily repentance, and to live each day as a gift from God. It means we care for our neighbors, love one another, and bear witness to the hope within us.

Martin Luther is said to have remarked, “If I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree today.” That saying captures a deeply Lutheran approach to the end times. We don’t panic or withdraw. We continue to live faithfully in the vocations God has given us; raising families, working honestly, serving our communities, and worshiping together. We do these things not because we think the world will last forever, but because we trust that our lives have meaning in God’s eternal plan. Whether Christ comes tomorrow or a thousand years from now, our calling remains the same: to live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

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

None in October

Baptisms

None in October

First Communion or Confirmation

Landon Husted

Weddings

Samantha Disney &
Logan Summers

Hospitalized

Heidi Moore
Red Wilson

New Members

None in October

Visitor Deadline

**Deadline to get
articles into the
December Visitor
Is
November 23rd**

Committees & Gatherings

Altar Guild for November

Various ladies on Altar Guild

Offering Stewards

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

Birthday Offerings

Carlos Mariani, Jeanette Schaefer, Robert Schaefer, Shirley Worthington, Chuck Daniels,

Worship & Music

Worship & Music meets November 4th 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 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.

Property

The property committee meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 4pm in the Narthex. The next meeting is **November 6th**. Everyone is welcome!!

Augustana Food Baskets

Next food pantry is **November 18th**, we helped 12 families in the Month of October & 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

2025 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!

There are some open spots in December

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 **November**. Would you like to be a donut Angel? See Jackie in the church office. It's a lot of fun!! Pam Stock took donuts to the Portage Fire Department, Karen Brenner took donuts to City Hall and Karen Freckelton took donuts to I.C.U. at Munster Community Hospital, in October.

Estate Sale - Auction

There is going to be an Estate Sale at Pastor Deck & Darlene's Home, 3375 Randolph Pl. in Hobart on November 7th & 8th, from 9:00am – 2:00pm both days.

Gift Bags for Shut-in's Items Needed

It is that time of year; we are collecting items for shut-in Christmas gift bags. We need ink pens and note paper, stamps, hand & body lotions, bar soap & pump soaps, chap sticks, eye glass cleaning cloths, large print puzzle books, wall calendars & pocket calendars, slipper sox, pocket hand sanitizers.

PLEASE, no greeting cards needed!! There will be a box marked for SHUT - INS in the Narthex. Please bring things in by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th. Once the bags are assembled, we will need volunteers to help us distribute them before Christmas. Thank you in advance! These are always well received by everyone. Questions, you can call Jennifer Gould 219-741-3154 or Linda Wozniak 219-763-7357.

The Communion of Saints

When Lutherans talk about “the saints,” we’re not just talking about the special people we hear Catholics talking about all the time that they name feast days after. We’re talking about what the Bible means when it uses the word: every believer in Christ. You and me. Ordinary people made holy not because we’ve done everything right, but because Jesus shed his blood for us. Paul called the Christians in Ephesus and Corinth “saints”, and if you know anything about those churches, you know they were far from perfect. But they were forgiven, set apart by Christ, and that’s what made them saints. On All Saints Day we are given the opportunity to remember and honor especially the beloved souls we have encountered on our life journey that have passed on from this mortal realm.

Now, that doesn’t mean we ignore the saints of history (ya know with a capital S) or disregard their virtues. We give thanks for Mary, Peter, Paul, and all the faithful who came before us. It’s a pretty good assumption that when the Catholic Church has designated someone as a Saint there is probably a lot we can learn from their life in Christ. We hold them up as examples of faith just as we would other humans we have known that have contributed to our understanding of what it means to be a Christian. I think if we could go back and talk to any of the more famous saints we have heard of they would probably tell us they were not perfect!...just like us!

The Augsburg Confession says we honor the saints when we remember them and follow their example in our own callings. And that includes the saints we’ve known personally. This includes our loved ones in our families, our congregations, our communities, those who are now with Christ. When we cherish their goodness, their courage, their faith, we are honoring Christ at work in them. And in doing so, we are drawn closer to the whole Body of Christ. That is what veneration really means, it’s about regarding with great respect. We venerate the saints, we do NOT worship them (this includes the Blessed Mother). Worship is reserved for the Triune God and the Triune God ALONE.

For us, the saints are not mini-saviors. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ. They’ve walked the same road we’re walking now, and many of them finished the race before us. Their lives point us not to themselves but to the faithfulness of Christ.

When we confess in the Creed, “*I believe in the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,*” we’re talking about something bigger than any single denomination. The communion of saints is the fellowship of every believer in Christ—past, present, and future. It’s the invisible church, fully known only to God, even though we sometimes only see the brokenness. But Scripture tells us that Christ is the cornerstone, and the Spirit is still building us together into one household of God.

The communion of saints is a mystery, but it’s also a reality we live in every day. By faith, we are part of it now. Every time we celebrate Holy Communion together, we are celebrating along with all of the saints throughout time united in the entire Body of Christ. By grace, we are sustained in it. And by Christ’s promise, we will one day see it in fullness. So if you think about it, the people we loved who we have lost are really only as far away as the next time you approach to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. And that’s pretty cool.

Yours in Christ,

Chaplain Chris

S.A.M Church Council Report November 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and/or participated in our Trunk or Treat on October 19th. Though the weather may have kept some families away there still were about 75 kids and families that did show up and had a great time. When Augustana says they are going to be there we show up! It's important for us to keep our promises to the community and we will continue to pursue ways to offer safe opportunities for families to gather in our neighborhood.

Advent is right around the corner! Thursday evening devotions will be at 4pm starting December 4th for Advent, then continuing after Christmas until the sun starts setting a little later for all of us who don't like to drive in the dark. (I don't blame you, I'm not that crazy about it either)

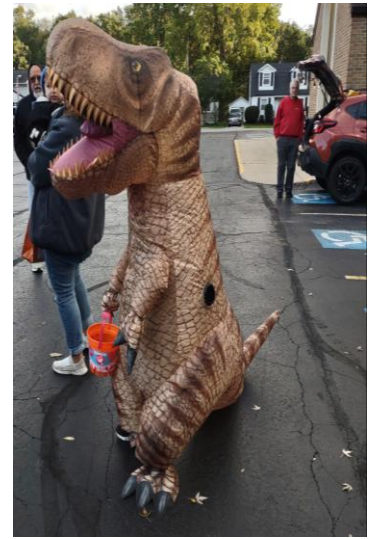
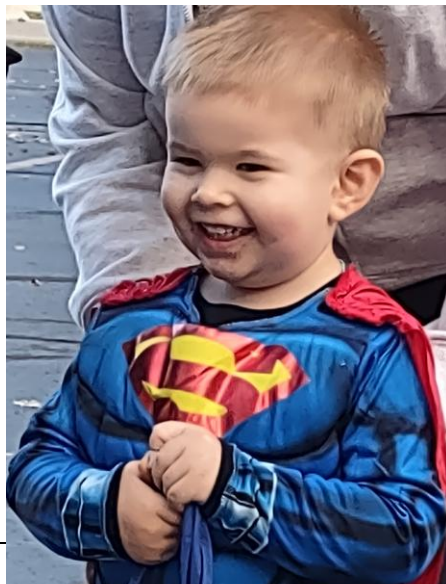
Thank you to everyone for taking the time to fill out your questionnaires that have been in your bulletins. Your feedback will help me so much in formulating my Masters Thesis AND helping us guide the ministries of Augustana into the future. Your opinions and ideas matter so much to me!

Yours in loving service,

Chaplain Chris

Trunk or Treat at Augustana 2025





November Birthday's

- 1 - Landon Orosz
- 2 - Jennifer Gould
- 4 - Mr. Alan Wozniak
Mrs. Tricia Eckrich
- 5 –Mr. Cameron Isolampi
- 6 - Mr. Kenneth Moore
Mrs. Jane Griffith
Mrs. Marty Ladd
- 7- Layla Mae Roberts
Jillian Wilkinson
- 9- Mrs. Peggy Orchard
Ms. Dawn Carlo
- 10 - Mr. Robert Sturgeon
Ms. Michelle Mariani
Ms. Lindsay Orosz
- 12 - Mrs. Veronica Cochran
Mrs. Carrie Disney
Mrs. Lenore Samanas
- 14 – Mr. Jacob Williams
Mrs. Kari McCabe
Mr. Donald Jurs
Mrs. Linda Shurr
Mrs. Jean Davis
- 15 - Mrs. Jane Freeman
- 18 - Mrs. Darlene Deck
- 21 – Mrs. Rachel Mariani
Mrs. Ann Hamer
- 22- Ms. Joan Wineinger
- 23 – Mr. Roger Emig
Mr. Andrew Clemmons
- 24 - Mrs. Joy James
Mr. William Roberts
Mya Marie Connell

Council Notes October 9th, 2025

Augustana Church Council- Notes

Pastor

Pastor Scott thanked everyone for all of their support and contributions with the funeral luncheons for Pastor Deck's and Ruth Mueller's funerals. Pastor Scott's and Chris's Bible Study sessions viewing has increased online.

Chaplain/SAM

Chris will continue Thursday evening devotions at 6:00 pm until Advent. Eleven members have decided to take part in the Adult Catechism Class. A new Adoration of the Cross service will follow the Wednesday morning Bible Study.

Office Manager

Jackie said that she has is waiting for the Department of Homeland Security to complete the paperwork so the permit for the elevator can be approved. The elevator passed the inspection despite some malfunctions with it not stopping at the correct levels when needed.

Worship

Pastor Scott shared that Sidsel will continue to play the piano and organ two Sundays out of the month. We are still looking for someone to fill this position on a permanent basis.

Building

Quotes for replacement windows will be requested soon. There was discussion about having a three-plan phase of replacements to help with the cost. There was discussion about creating a Memorial Garden around the bell tower.

**Church Council will start meeting on
Wednesday night's, instead of
Thursday's**

**Next Council Meeting is
November 12th at 6:30pm**

Stewardship for Mission

Please read this story carefully and then discern your life as a faithful steward of God's treasure.

Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me.

There were 8 children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they did not have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean. The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You are my knight in shining armor." He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family so happy. The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, "I would like to buy 8 children's tickets and 2 adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady stated the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again stated the price. The man did not have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his 8 children that he did not have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. We were not wealthy in any sense of the word! My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket." The man understood what was going on. He was not begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation. The man looked directly into my father's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied, "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with. Although we did not get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.

That day I learned the value to give, that the giver is bigger than the receiver, and if you want to be large, larger than life, learn to give. Only if you give can you truly receive more. The giver's heart becomes the ocean. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, only with what you are expecting to give, which is everything.

God bless you as you discern your gift for the mission of the church.

Thank You

To My Augustana Church Family,

Many thanks to my Augustana family for all your kindness and encouragement during my surgery and recovery. Cards, calls, emails, and treats were greatly appreciated. You truly are God's Hands.

Nancy Wedig

Augustana Family,

Pastor Scott, the service and your words were a true tribute to a wonderful person. Thank you for visiting she really enjoyed that.

Chris, thank you for visiting as well – I know she was happy.

We just want to say thank-you for the delicious Funeral luncheon for Ruth and all the hard work that went into all the preparations.

The Chime selection was beautiful and I know Ruth loved it.

The Mueller Family
&
Karen Horvatich

Augustana Lutheran Church,

I don't think I have a letter big enough to thank you for all you've done for Gary Harm Reduction & the recovery Riot! When we felt scared & alive, like the world no longer cared about **Our** people, you all stepped in & provided a helping hand, fiscal donation & supplies.

We love & thank you!

Kristen Cohen & Gary Harm Train

Augustana Church Family,

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated Personal Care Kits this year. With your generosity we packed up 24 kits and delivered them to Christ Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, IN, which is our collection drop off point, on Saturday, October 18th. The kits will be distributed all over the globe to those in need. Thanks again to all who showed the spirit of "Love Thy Neighbor" with your donations.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Gould and Linda Wozniak

Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way.

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise." For over 50 years, Samaritan's Purse has done our utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. We are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. This, in turn, earns us a hearing for the Gospel, the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

As our teams work in crisis areas of the world, people often ask, "Why did you come?" The answer is always the same: "We have come to help you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Our ministry is all about Jesus—first, last, and always. As the Apostle Paul said, "*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake*" (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV).

Mission Statement

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is Operation Christmas Child that we are looking to help on Saturday, November 15th. Please contact Colette Williams @ 219-743-1864, for more info or to sign up!

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

Sheila's Angel Tree

The Caring Committee will be starting the Sheila's Angel Tree on November 9th. Each child has 5 cards with wishes for Christmas. Some of the wishes include things that are needed and a few wants. The gifts will be due on December 7th. We will have wrapping paper outside the Angel Tree sign-up Station. We thank you in advance for your support to give the children a beautiful Christmas!

Thank you,

Sarah, Heidi, Rebecca, Andrea

Augustana Foundation News

November is the month when we reflect on all we have to be thankful for.

The Augustana Foundation allows our church to help others in our community outside the walls of our church. Join us on Sunday, November 23rd at the 10am service when we announce our Community Grant Recipients for 2025!

Together let's celebrate the good our Foundation does which was founded by Pastor Ronald Deck and Bob Lindholm in 1984.

*Thanks,
Colette L Williams*





Venture to VU in October

[219.464.5000](tel:219.464.5000) - [1700 CHAPEL DRIVE, VALPARAISO, IN 46383-6493 USA](https://www.valpo.edu) - [valpo.edu](https://www.valpo.edu)

BY Colette L Williams

Check out the lineup for November at Valparaiso University!

All events are free unless noted otherwise.

“Cabaret”

Thursday, November 6-Friday, November 7, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 8-Sunday, November 9, 2:00 p.m.

University Theatre

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

Chamber Music Recital

Sunday, November 16, 2:00 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

Percussion Studio Recital

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

Valparaiso University Jazz Ensemble

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.

University Theatre

Looking to early December...

Julefest!

Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Christmas at Valpo

Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

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

TubaChristmas

Sunday, December 7, 3:15 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Hope to see you on campus!

Usher Duties

In August, Augustana lost their main Usher's, Bill Pearson & Dale Naggatz, and now we are losing Paula Isolampi.

On November 30, I will be retired from ushering. I have done it for over 50 years, and it is someone else's turn to do it. My health is getting worse, especially my joints. I am a fall risk due to my deteriorating tendons and ligaments because of my Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. I am afraid of falling during the offering and communion, especially while presenting the bread and wine. And in fact I have already stumbled several times, and if I fall and hit my head it could be catastrophic. I will train and oversee anyone who is willing to step up to the plate. If an 11 year old girl can do it, anyone can do it.

Paula

We Need Your Help!!

We are looking for 4 teams of ushers that would service the church 1 Sunday per month. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway outside the office window at the top of the stairway. So, grab a friend and sign up.

1. Pre-Service Duties

- **Arrive early** to prepare for the service.
- **Check the sanctuary** for cleanliness and readiness
- **Coordinate with other ushers** and church leadership for any special instructions (e.g., communion, guest speaker, baptism).

2. Greeting & Seating

- **Warmly greet attendees** with a friendly smile and welcoming attitude.
- **Distribute bulletins, programs, or handouts** as people enter.
- **Assist with seating**, especially for:
 - Late arrivals (discreetly)
 - Elderly or disabled individuals
 - Families with children
- **Direct visitors** to restrooms, children's areas, or other facilities.

3. During the Service

- **Monitor the sanctuary** for any disruptions or needs.
- **Assist with late seating** at appropriate times (usually during transitions in the service).
- **Take attendance**
- **Assist with offerings/tithes:**
 - Distribute and collect offering plates/baskets
 - Ensure offerings are handled securely and reverently
- **Help with communion service**
- **Provide support** for those who need to leave the sanctuary temporarily.

4. Special Assistance

- **Respond to emergencies** (medical or otherwise) calmly and quickly.
- **Assist with special needs** (wheelchair access, large print bulletins, etc.).
- **Offer tissues, water, or assistance** discreetly if someone is emotionally distressed.

5. Post-Service Duties

- **Assist with orderly dismissal**
- **Thank attendees for coming**, especially visitors.
- **Clean up the sanctuary:**
 - Pick up leftover bulletins, trash, or personal items
 - Straighten hymnals, Bibles, and chairs
- **Return offering to designated personnel** (put offering in the safe in the main office)
- **Debrief with usher team**, if needed, to note any concerns or suggestions.

6. General Expectations

- **Dress appropriately**
- **Maintain a friendly, respectful, and helpful demeanor** at all times.
- **Be attentive, alert, and available** throughout the service.
- **Respect confidentiality and personal space** of attendees.
- **Work as a team** with other ushers and church staff.

News from the Property Committee

Just by looking around, you can see Augustana Church and her properties are well-maintained. It takes many hands with different skill levels. Some of the tasks the Property Committee has completed recently are easy to see such as cutting down a tree, the vegetable garden, faucets, toilets, and the drinking fountain have been repaired, lightbulbs replaced, stair risers have been painted, broken windows have been temporarily repaired, and so much more, the list is very long. The list of repairs that you don't see is just as long, such as furnace and air conditioner filters are maintained throughout the year.

Pressure washing exterior surfaces, improving water drainage around the perimeter, and putting up banners outside. Phew, just to name a few!!

If you're interested in sharing your talent and skills, like gardening, landscaping, general maintenance, painting, electrical, plumbing, etc, then join the Property Committee. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 4 o'clock in the Narthex. If you can't attend the meeting, but wish to help, please contact the Church Office.

Menards rebates and gift cards are always a welcomed gift to the church.

Please consider becoming a part of the committee that takes care of God's house.

Worship & Music

Choirs' rehearsals resumed in September. New members are always welcome! No experience necessary, just your time and dedication. We will teach you what you need to know. Handbell rehearsals resumed on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd @ 6:30 pm in the balcony. New ringers are always welcome, and we could especially use some with strong muscles to ring the big bells! No experience necessary. If you're interested in playing Bells, please text or call Kristin Sturgeon at 219-730-8939.

Church Choir meets Tuesday's @ 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. If you are interested in singing in the Choir and have any questions, please call Melinda Reinhart at 219-413-1213.

New members are always welcome!

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 me know so I 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 been moved next to the trash bin.

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

Fully-Loaded Baked Potato Soup

Ingredients:

6 strips bacon
5 Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into eighths (I used a 3lb. bag)
½ cup butter
1 small sweet onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
3 (15 ounce) cans chicken broth
1 pint half-and-half
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
1 (8 ounce) container sour cream
1 teaspoon dried parsley

Directions:

Cook bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until crisp, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board; crumble and set aside. Reserve drippings and set aside.

Place potatoes into a pot and cover with water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Melt butter in the same pot over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté until onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in crumbled bacon, bacon drippings, flour, salt, and black pepper; reduce heat. Add boiled potatoes, chicken broth, and half-and-half; simmer until thickened, about 5 minutes. Add 1 cup Cheddar cheese and sour cream; cook and stir until heated through, about 5 minutes. Garnish soup with remaining 1 cup Cheddar cheese and parsley.

Jackie Fitzgerald

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