



Augustana

Lutheran Church



The Parish Visitor

The Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church Hobart, IN

October 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

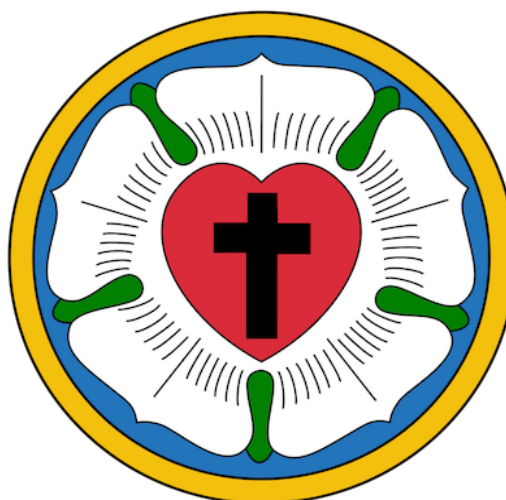
Youth & Family Lay Minister

Vacant

Property Manager

Sue Sutton

Custodian



Reformation

Sunday,

is October 25th

Remember to Wear Red!!

Thoughts from Pastor...

As the Seasons Turn

There comes a moment every year when we can feel the world beginning to turn. The sun rises later. The evenings arrive earlier. The air becomes cooler, and leaves that spent the summer holding tightly to their branches begin their slow transformation. Autumn has arrived. And if we pay attention, creation itself has something to teach us.

Learn to let go. The trees do not desperately try to hold onto every leaf. They release what has completed its season. Maybe there are things we are being invited to release as well...old resentments, fears, regrets, expectations, the need to control, or even an old version of ourselves that no longer fits who God is calling us to become. Letting go does not mean something never mattered. Sometimes we let go precisely because it mattered. We bless what has been, grieve what needs to be grieved, learn what it came to teach us, and loosen our grip.

Wake up. Autumn interrupts the familiar landscape with brilliant color and seems to say, *Pay attention. Something is changing.* We can move through life half-awake...working, worrying, planning, rushing from one responsibility to another. Meanwhile, life is happening right in front of us. God is present here, today, in this moment. Maybe the question for this season is simply: **Where is God moving in my life right now?**

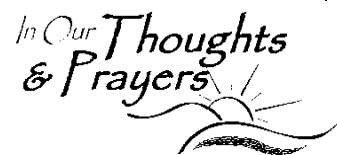
Time is precious. Every falling leaf reminds us that nothing in this life remains exactly as it is forever. That does not have to frighten us. It can teach us to become present. There are people worth appreciating now. Conversations worth having now. There are words like *I love you, I'm sorry, I forgive you, and thank you* that should not always be saved for another day. Time is precious. Love people while they are here.

Look within. As the world outside becomes quieter, perhaps we can become quieter too. Instead of asking what everyone else needs to change, we can ask: *What am I carrying? What am I afraid of? Where have I caused harm? What am I trying to control? What might God be trying to heal within me?* We do not look within to condemn ourselves. We look within because we trust the Gospel. Christ already knows us completely, including the parts we would rather hide, and Christ loves us still. Grace gives us the courage to tell the truth.

Make amends. Sometimes looking honestly within reveals something that needs to be repaired. Maybe there is an apology we have avoided. Maybe someone needs to hear us say, *I was wrong.* Maybe our amends will not be words at all but a commitment to live differently. We cannot rewrite yesterday. But by the grace of God, we can choose what we do today. That is repentance: turning around. Changing direction. Allowing God's grace to lead us toward another way of living.

As the seasons turn, soon the brilliant leaves will fall and the trees will become bare. Winter will arrive, and the landscape may appear empty. But we know something about those trees. **They are not dead.** Life is still there, hidden beneath the surface, preparing for something we cannot yet see. Perhaps the same is true of us. There are seasons for holding and seasons for releasing. Seasons for endings and seasons for beginnings. Seasons for grieving and seasons for becoming. So as the leaves begin to fall, perhaps we can hear creation whispering: **Learn to let go. Wake up. Time is precious. Look within. Make amends.** And then trust God with whatever comes next. Because sometimes what looks like an ending is simply God preparing the earth...and preparing us...for something new.

Yours in loving service,
Pastor Chris



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 September

Baptisms

Graham Eriks

First Communion or Confirmation

None in September

Weddings

None in September

Hospitalized

Ken Moore

New Members

None in September

Visitor Deadline

**Deadline to get
articles into the
November Visitor
is
October 25th**

Committees & Gatherings

Altar Guild for October

Heidi Moore & Karen Freckelton

Offering Stewards

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

Birthday Offerings

Sidsel Lindborg, Pastor Chris Williams, Jim Fay, Tracey Pavese-Robinson, Jan Zorn, Yvonne Schuck

Worship & Music

Worship & Music's next meeting is, October 6th 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 meets every Sunday 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 **October 20th** we helped 12 families in the Month of September & 8 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 **October**.

Would you like to be a Donut Angel? See Jackie in the church office. It's a lot of fun!!

Joy James took donuts to the City of Hobart Street Department

Make a Change

Noisy Offering is the last Sunday of Every Month!

Our August offering was \$102.79
Thank You!!

Property Committee

Stop in one of the offices and see the new windows now that the vertical blinds are installed. The office and preschool windows look nice from the outside also. Soon the window trim will be painted.

Property Committee needs help caring for God's House. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 4:00. Skills, no skills, all are welcome, we mean ALL. Hope you'll consider joining Property.

**The next meeting is Thursday
Oct. 1st at 4:00pm**

October Birthday's

1 – Mr. Robert Janes
Reid Bood
Stephanie Husek
2 - Mr. Edwin Gonzalez
4- Mr. Josh Krause
Mr. Brian Rucinski Sr.
5 - Mr. Rodney Johnson Sr.
Sylvia Podrebarac
6 - Mr. Rodman (Cubie) Cubberly
7 - Mr. Randy Turley
8 - Mr. Brock Cooper
9 - Mr. Carlos Mariani
Mrs. Megan (Williams) Eriks
Mrs. Jeanette Schaeffer
Mrs. Caitlyn Levine
13 - Mrs. Cassidy Gulley
Mr. John Valdez
16 - Mrs. Charlette Dopiriak
22 - Mr. Charles Daniels
Ms. Madelyn Gonzalez
24- Mrs. Fay Forsythe
Gretchen Gruett
25 - Mrs. Julie Davis
Adeline Winters
29 - Mr. Brett Keen
Mrs. Gail Dayhoff
Mr. Robert Schaefer
Ms. Teague Sanders
30 - Mrs. Kristin Sturgeon
Paxton Kostbade

Church Council Notes September 9th, 2026

Pastor– Chris conveyed that the God's Work, Our Hands day was a success. Many donations were also given to the St. Jude House last Saturday. Chris and Brandi will occupy a booth at the upcoming Recovery Riot at Marquette Park. Summer attendance did not decline this year. There may be five more new members that would like to join the church. There has been a 106% increase of viewing the Augustana website. Sunday School classes begin on September 13th. Three new volunteer Sunday School teachers will help out. Brandi is starting a Women's Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm. Chris shared the Emergency Response Committee outline with the Church Council.

Office Manager – Jackie shared that she appreciates Joy and Renee's help in the Church office.

Ministry Reports

Worship-Chris would like any members to be lectors and read the bible passages during the services. More worship assistants are needed. New members will be introduced at the Church picnic. There will also be nametags available for everyone to wear at the Church picnic.

Serving-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 have been installed. The color white has been voted for to paint the middle of the windows. Carpet cleaning quotes are still being gathered. Signs for the parking lot were suggested to be purchased.

Next Church Council Meeting is, October 14, 2026 at 6:30 pm

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 \$25.00 on August 19th, 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 upcoming and view the adorable animals looking for their second chance.

With Gratitude,
Jenny Webber

Worship Service

You're Invited!

Divine Mercy Prayer Service — Thursday's at 6:00 PM. Join us Thursday nights for a sacred time of prayer, reflection, and mercy as we prepare our hearts to let go of whatever blocks us from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Come with whatever you are carrying—fear, resentment, regret, grief, worry, or weariness—and place it into the merciful hands of Christ.

Thank You - Foundation

Dear Augustana Foundation,

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship and for investing in my future. I am incredibly grateful for the support from my church family. Thank you so much for believing in me. I am so grateful!

With sincere appreciation,

Grace Griffith

Dear Augustana Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for your help through my next year of College. I'm looking forward to finishing my degree and continuing to Bowl as well. Every bit helps very much.

Kynan Krause

Dear Augustana Scholarship Committee,

I am so grateful for your generous support through this scholarship, I will continue to work hard.

Kenzie Vincent

Augustana Foundation News

The Augustana Foundation is accepting applications for community grants.

If you have a nonprofit organization that is meaningful in your life, consider having them apply or fill one out on their behalf.

Grant applications can be found outside the church office. The deadline for the applications is October 15th.



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.



Saturday, October 10, 2026

9:00-11:30am &

12:30-3:00pm

Crown Point High School Cafeteria

Sign-up on Sign-up Sheet on the Board in Hallway

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!



Hobart Humane Society Donation Drive



To the Augustana Church Family & Friends,

As winter approaches, we are coming together to support the animals at the **Hobart Humane Society**. We are collecting much-needed pet food, treats, toys, leashes, harnesses, blankets, cleaning supplies, and other pet essentials. **Donations will be collected October 4 through November 1.**

Please consider donating what you can to help provide comfort and care for animals in need. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference!

With gratitude,

The Caring Committee

Andrea • Becky • Michelle • Sarah



Thank You

The Allen and Williams families are grateful for the support and prayers given before and after our beloved Penny's Death.

Thank you,
Paul Allen

We sincerely want to thank Walt & Michelle and the entire property committee for installing the beautiful window blinds in the church office. We love them!!

Thank you for all you do!!
Jackie Fitzgerald & Joy James



Venture to VU by Colette Williams

The Fall Semester is in full swing with many musical opportunities for you to enjoy at your Valparaiso University. All the events listed for October are free to the public. I hope to see you there!

Chamber Concert Band Concert

Saturday, October 3, 4:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Luce Concert Band and Community/University Concert Band Concert

Saturday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Musica Viva

Tuesday, October 6, 2:30 p.m.

Duesenberg Recital Hall

Choral Concert ~ An American Celebration

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with the Valparaiso University choirs in a concert featuring American choral music.

Friday, October 9, 7:30 PM

Chapel of the Resurrection

Symphony Orchestra Halloween Spooktacular

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

Holy Baptism

Welcome to God's Family

Graham William Eriks!

Parents - Megan and Brett Eriks

Sponsors - Jake Williams

and Abbi Kosteba Perez



God's Work Our Hands!

♥ Augustana represented at St. Jude House in Crown Point! We brought donations, helped create an inspirational rock garden, painted rocks and sorted clothes. Just a small donation of time yielded so much joy!

Be a part of something bigger! Join us in October for Pack Away Hunger!

God is smiling. 😊



Augustana Lutheran and the Monday night group showed up to help the St. Jude house for God's Work Our Hands day. Thank you to all who donated supplies and gift cards and those that came today to bring the love to the residents of the St. Jude house



Recovery Riot 2026 Augustana stands with the recovery community

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.

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. Flowers are \$15.00 for each vase.

Thank you for your cooperation!
Jackie Fitzgerald

There are some open spots in Oct., Nov. & Dec.

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

Cinnamon Sugar Apple Cake

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups brown Sugar
1/3 cup oil
1 egg
1 cup buttermilk or (1 cup milk + 1 tablespoon white vinegar)
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 ½ cups flour
2 ½ cups chopped Honeycrisp apples (see notes)

Cinnamon Sugar Topping:

½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon butter melted

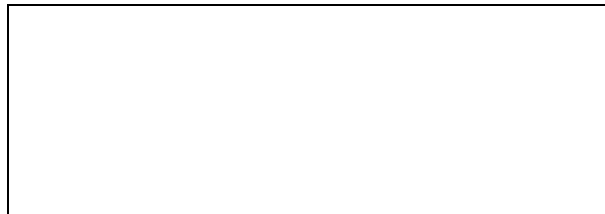
Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Mix or whisk ingredients in order given, stirring until just combined. Fold in your apples. Pour batter into buttered 9x13 pan (alternatively, you can line with parchment paper). Combine sugar, cinnamon, and butter with a fork until evenly dispersed. Use the fork to press out any clumps; it will have the texture of damp sand. Sprinkle / crumble evenly over the apple cake. Bake for 45 minutes. Test with a toothpick if needed. Serve with honey butter or whipped cream if you want.
APPLE CAKE IS THE BEST!!

Carrie Disney

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!