Augustana Lutheran Church

The Parish Visitor

The Monthly Newsletter of Augustana Lutheran Church Hobart, IN November 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

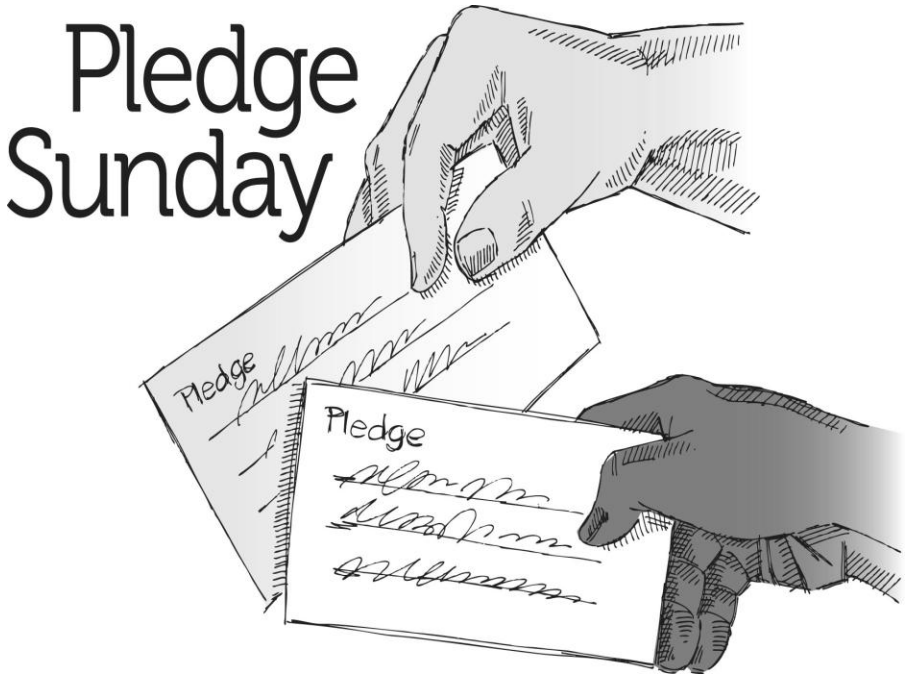
Jackie Fitzgerald
Office Manager

Vacant
Youth & Family Lay Minister

Vacant
Property Manager

Sue Sutton
Custodian

November 8th is



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 8th** we will receive your pledges. Please come prepared to share your commitment on a pledge card.

Thoughts from Pastor…

REFORMED: God Is Still Making All Things New

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." — Romans 12:2

The Protestant Reformation began more than 500 years ago, but its message remains just as important for us today. The Reformation was never intended to be simply a historical event that we remember once a year. It was a rediscovery of the Gospel and a call for the Church to continually return to Jesus Christ.
The great discovery of the Reformation was that we cannot save ourselves, earn God's love, or make ourselves righteous through our own efforts. We are justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Our salvation comes from outside ourselves, as a gift freely given through Christ.And because we are already loved and forgiven, we are free to look honestly at our lives and ask a very important question: **What still needs to change?**

As we journey through November and approach the season of Advent, we will continue reflecting on what it means to be reformed, not simply as a Church, but as individuals, families, and a community of faith. Perhaps there are attitudes we have carried for years, resentments we have refused to release, relationships that need healing, or fears that keep us from trusting God. Perhaps there are ways we have become so comfortable with how things have always been that we have stopped noticing what God is calling us to become.
The same questions apply to the Church. Are we more concerned about preserving traditions than proclaiming the Gospel? Are we welcoming the wounded, the struggling, and the forgotten? Are we truly becoming a community where people experience God's healing, hope, and belonging? These are not questions intended to produce guilt or shame. They are invitations to transformation. Grace gives us the courage to be honest because our failures do not have the final word. Jesus Christ does.
Our journey of Reformation invites us into four movements: **Awaken, Return, Repair, and Reform.**

We begin by **Awakening** to what needs to change. Before transformation can happen, we must become willing to see ourselves honestly. In recovery, this is called taking an inventory. In our Christian faith, we speak of confession and repentance. Both invite us to stop pretending, recognize what is broken, and bring it into the light of God's grace.
From there, we **Return** to the source of our hope. We cannot reform ourselves through willpower alone. We return to Christ, trusting that God's grace is sufficient even when our lives remain unfinished. Sometimes the most important prayer we can offer is simply, "Lord, make me willing."
Then comes **Repair**. God's grace does not leave us unchanged. It moves us toward our neighbors, especially those we may have hurt. Reconciliation involves more than saying we are sorry. It means accepting responsibility, making amends where possible and appropriate, respecting boundaries, and demonstrating through our actions that something is different.
Sometimes we cannot undo the damage of yesterday, but by God's grace, we can stop repeating it today.

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In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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
Michael Hart
Don Nedberg

Baptisms
None in October

First Communion or Confirmation
None in October

Weddings
None in October

Hospitalized
Mary Hilberger
Jim Fay
Carole, Carlson

New Members
None in October

Visitor Deadline

Deadline to get articles into the December Visitor is

November 22nd

Committees & Gatherings

Altar Guild for November

Carol Trethewey & Betty Soderstrom

Offering Stewards

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

Birthday Offerings

Dawn Morningstar, Kevin Freeman, Dennis Lindborg, Carol Trethewey, Judy Dennis, Josh Krause, Carlos Mariani, Jeanette & Robert Schaefer

Worship & Music

Worship & Music's next meeting is, November 2nd 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 **November 17th** we helped 12 families in the Month of October & 6 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 or Joy, in the church office.
If you don't need church envelopes, because you give online now, please let Jackie or Joy 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 or Joy 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 **November.** 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 October offering was $95.00
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 November 5th at 4:00pm

November Birthday's

1 - Landon Orosz
2 – Mrs. 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
Ms. Jillian Wilkinson
9- Ms. Dawn Carlo
10 - Mr. Robert Sturgeon
Ms. Michelle Mariani
Ms. Lindsay Orosz
12 - Mrs. Veronica Cochran
Mrs. Carrie Disney
14 – Mr. Jacob Williams
Mrs. Kari McCabe
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

Church Council Notes October 14th, 2026

Staff Reports

Pastor– Chris conveyed that the worship attendance is holding steady. There have been 204 unique first time visitors to the Church's webpage. The Google ads are possibly helping with online searches. Trunk or Treat will be Sunday October 25th 2:00-4:00 pm. Chris has proposed a grant from the Augustana Foundation for items to equip the Emergency Preparedness Action Committee and to secure supplemental financial support for our Food Pantry.

Office Manager – Jackie shared that Cindy Boor will be helping with funeral luncheons. Jackie also has asked the Augustana Foundation for money to help those families in need for the upcoming holiday season. Nancy Ferris moved to Illinois. Jackie bought a thank you figurine as well as thank you cards to show the church's gratitude for all of Nancy's help with the past funeral luncheons.

Ministry Reports

Worship-Chris would like any members to be lectors and read the bible passages during the services. The focus for the next several weeks will be the ongoing Reformation of the church and ourselves.

Serving-There will be upcoming events to help the Humane Society, Food Drive and Angel Tree programs.

Building-The middle of the windows will be painted white soon. Carpet cleaning and furnace quotes have been requested. The elevator was repaired by installing a new contact and 5 gallons of oil added

New Business

Pledge Sunday-November 8th

Next Church Council Meeting: November 11, 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 September 10th, 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

Continued from page 2……..

Finally, we **Reform**. The Church is still being reformed. Not because Christ's saving work is incomplete, but because we continually need to be brought back to Christ and renewed in our calling to love and serve our neighbors.
This is especially meaningful for us at Augustana Lutheran Church.
We have embraced the understanding that **the Church is a hospital for sinners, not a country club for saints.** We are not a gathering of people who have everything figured out. We are people who need God's grace, people who are learning to trust, forgive, heal, and begin again.
The Reformation did not end 500 years ago. God is still at work among us, calling us back to Christ, renewing our faith, healing our relationships, and sending us into the world as instruments of reconciliation.
The Church is still being reformed. We are still being reformed. And God is still making all things new.
In Christ's love and service,
Pastor Chris

Prayer 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.

The last Prayer Service on Thursday's @ 6pm, will be Dec. 3, 2026

The Caring Committee Ministry



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.



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

Foundation News

Come celebrate with us on Sunday, November 22nd on Foundation Sunday when we announce our Community Grant recipients for 2026. We are so blessed to have a Foundation that is able to help so many non profit organizations outside the walls of our church each year. The Augustana Foundation was founded in 1984. All donations that are made go into the corpus funds that are invested. Each year, the dividends and interest we make are distributed as educational and community grants.

Consider making a memorial donation to our foundation because it will live on in perpetuity to continue to bless many.

Thank You

Augustana Church Family,
A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated Personal Care Kits this year. With your generosity we packed up 36 kits and delivered them to Christ Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, IN, which is our collection drop off point, on Saturday, October 17th. 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

Augustana Church Family,
Thank you for all the love and support you showed me at the passing of my Dad. The meal was outstanding and I thank the ladies for all their food contributions and help. I felt the love. Our family was so appreciative.
Love,
Jan Buzolitz and the Nedberg Family

Dear Augustana Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your generous donation to Pack Away Hunger. Your gift will help provide nutritious meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity – both here in our community and around the world. In 2026, our goal is to pack and distribute 2 million meals, and your support plays an essential role in making that goal a reality.
Your commitment to our mission to eliminate hunger in Indiana and beyond allows us to expand access to nutritious food, deliver meaningful hunger education, and create hand-on meal packing opportunities for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Donors like you inspire us to continue working toward a future where no one must wonder where their next meal will come from.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your partnership and generosity. On behalf of the entire Pack Away Hunger team, thank you for making a lasting impact.

Sincerely,
Angela Cardwell
Executive Director

Donation Details
Date Received: 10/22/2026
Donation Amount: $250.00
Meals Created: 625

Pack Away Hunger 2026







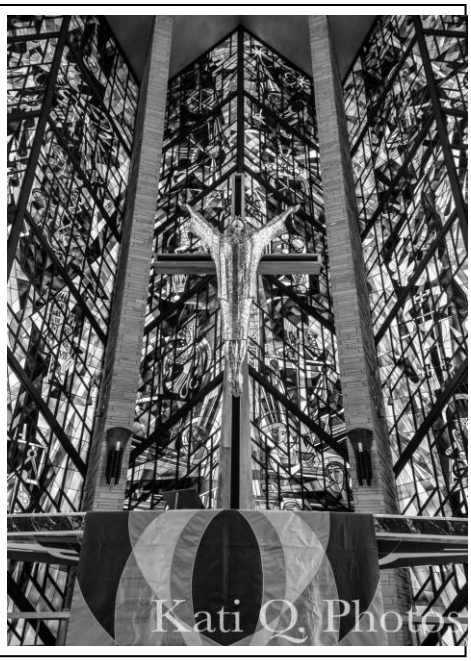
PACK AWAY HUNGER®

Venture to VU by Colette Williams

Exploring the Chapel at VU 11/21/26 at 9am

Join University Pastor Kate and myself on Saturday, November 21st at 9am as we take an in depth look at the stained glass windows in the Chapel of the Resurrection on campus. There is so much symbolism and meaning in the three windows behind the altar that depict images representing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You will be able to get up close to these beautiful windows created by German stained glass artist Peter Dohmen.

Please sign up if you are interested in attending so we can plan our visit.
We will spend an hour with Pastor Kate in the Chapel and if the weather permits, I can show you some other points of interest on campus.
Join me on this campus adventure!



More from VU

November 5, 6, | 8 pm to 10 pm and November 7, 8 | 2 pm to 4pm "Wizard of Oz" (MUNY edition) at the University Theatre

Follow the yellow brick road to the Valparaiso University Center for the Arts for a production of The Wizard of Oz (MUNY edition). Learn more and purchase tickets at valpo.edu/music/performances.

November 14 | 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.VU Jazz Ensemble at the University Theatre

Enjoy an evening of live jazz as the Valparaiso University Jazz Ensemble takes the stage in the University Theatre. This performance is free and open to the public.

There are many events coming up in December to enjoy! Go to valpo.edu and search on Valpo Events.

I hope to see you on campus!

Operation Christmas Child 11/14/26

We are looking for volunteers at Eastlake Baptist Church to help pack shoeboxes full of Christmas joy for children ages 2 to 14 on Saturday, November 14th from 10-12. These boxes will go directly to children in need within the US and around the world. We help pack the boxes with small toys, clothing, school supplies and a spiritual message.

Please sign up outside the church office. We will meet at Eastlake Baptist, 7121 E 81st Avenue on US 30 in Crown Point at 9:45am that day. If you have other things going on, you can come pack one box or stay for the duration and pack many. This is a great way to start your holiday season with a giving heart!

For more information about this Samaritan's Purse ministry, you can visit samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child.
You can also contact Colette Williams in church or at 219-743-1864 if you have any questions.



Recipes

A few people asked for some recipes, so here they are. Enjoy!!

Macaroni Salad

1 lb. seashell or elbow macaroni
1 cup vinegar
1 cup sugar or ½ cup Splenda
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 t. salt
¼ t. pepper
2 cups mayonnaise
1 large green pepper, chopped
1 sm. Onion chopped
4 carrots, shredded

Directions:

Cook macaroni. Drain and cool. Combine vinegar, sugar, milk, salt, pepper and mayonnaise. Mix with macaroni, peppers, onion and carrots. Refrigerate overnight. Stir before serving.

Brought to the church picnic. Sherron Hagerty

Chewy Chocolate Cookies

1 ¼ cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 ½ cups flour
¾ cup cocoa
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
2 cups (1 – 12 ounce package) peanut butter chips or chocolate chips.

Directions:

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, and vanilla; beat well. In a separate bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt and then blend into creamed mixture. Stir in chips. Drop by rounded teaspoonful on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 9 minutes (do not over bake). Cookies will be soft. They will puff while baking and flatten when they are cooling.

Brought to funeral luncheon.
Kathy Winovich

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

Sour Cream Noodle Bake

Ingredients:

1 – 8oz. medium egg noodles
1 – Cup cottage cheese
1 – 8oz. sour cream
½ cup onion chopped
1 – lb. hamburger
1 – 8oz. tomato sauce
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. garlic salt
¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

Cook noodles according to pkg. Drain and fold in cottage cheese, sour cream and onion. Cook meat and drain. Add tomato sauce and seasonings. Simmer 10 min. Combine meat mixture with noodle mixture. Pour into greased 2 qt. casserole, and bake @ 350 for 30 minutes.
Remove from oven, sprinkle cheese and bake additional 5 minutes or until cheese melts.

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!