

Augustana Update



Augustana Lutheran Church
1025 Second Avenue
Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
February 2010
Rev. Karen Hofstad, Pastor

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NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Congratulations and welcome to the new Church Council Members. They are:

Craig Friess	3-year term
Tom Hallgren	3-year term
Dan Shoemaker	3-year term
Rachael Stuntz	3-year term
Sally Landstrom	1-year term

NEW COUNCIL OFFICERS

Joe Brown	President
Mark Ruppel	Vice-President
Candace Jacobs	Secretary
Shirley Evenson	Co-Treasurer
Carol Wallin	Co-Treasurer

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Diane Carlson	Church in Society and Education
Bob Chubb	Outreach
Craig Friess	Property
Tom Hallgren	Personnel
Candace Jacobs	Congregational Care
Sally Landstrom	Communications
Laura Lindquist	Music and Worship
Dan Shoemaker	Finance
Rachael Stuntz	Education and Youth
Marty Voshell	Stewardship

Please keep your Church Council in your prayers!

Lent is almost here

This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Lent has been observed by Christians since the fourth century. It is a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter. Lent ends at midnight on Holy Saturday, the night before Easter Sunday.

During Lent some Christians focus on giving up something. Is it absolutely necessary for the observation of Lent to give up a delicacy or a bad habit or an hour of sleep in order to pray? Who can truly say? What one does during the Lenten period should be a matter between a Christian and God. Some may decide to do something extra for their spiritual growth. Others may indeed “give up” something that’s a hindrance to the spiritual life. Some may make a special sacrifice of some sort. And some may decide to improve their communication and fellowship with God by having special times of prayer throughout the day, or vow to worship in the church at every service held.

The important thing is to make Lent a special time, a memorable time. A time so meaningful that it sets the tone for the rest of the entire year. At the very least it should be a time of sincere spiritual growth.

Ash Wednesday February 17

Worship will be at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Wednesdays beginning February 24

Soup Supper Serving begins at 5:30 p.m.

Holden Worship 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR...

What a wonderful day Sunday, January 17th was – the Installation Service (with new friends and old friends together sharing in our excitement for what lies ahead)... the opportunity to preside at Holy Communion and share in the grace-filled gift of Christ’s very presence with us... and, of course, the reception /open house after the second service. My heart overflows with gratitude and warmth! What a welcome you have given me!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your warm smiles and hugs and greetings. *Thank you* for your excitement for what the future holds for us in our shared ministry in this place. I feel blessed to be called to serve in this setting; and in the coming weeks and months, I look forward to getting to know each of you... to learning from you... to walking and working with you in the ministry and mission God is calling us to.

As we begin this shared journey, let me tell you a little bit about myself:

- I grew up in Bemidji, MN, and I love all that the great north woods (and lakes) have to offer. [In many ways, the Cumberland area feels like “home.”]
- I am a Vikings fan – through and through (I hope you won’t hold this against me).
- I am NOT a morning person☹ ~ especially before I’ve had my first cup (or two) of good strong coffee.
- Fall and winter are my favorite seasons. [If any of you are hikers and/or snowshoers, let me know the places I should explore around here, ok?!]
- I am 50% Norwegian and 50% Swedish – my grandmothers would be so proud to know I am serving a “Swedish” congregation. And yes, I do like lutefisk and lefse and many other traditional Scandinavian “goodies”☺
- I love to travel and see new places.
- I am a strong supporter of Outdoor Ministries and their influence in shaping and nurturing faith (especially in the children and youth of the church).

- Holden Village (an intergenerational Lutheran retreat setting in the North Cascades of Washington state) is one my favorite places to go – to rest, renew, recreate, and re-center. Anyone interested in a group trip west in the next couple of years??
- Family and friends are very important to me!

“Hospitality” and “generosity” and “caring” are words that come to mind as I reflect on my first days at Augustana. As Christians, we are called to offer hospitality to the stranger and to generously and unreservedly share our selves and our varied gifts with those with whom we work and interact. In the short time that I’ve been with you, I have seen you living out this calling. I see the life-giving power of the Spirit at work in your midst. I see what a caring, gifted, and “giving” congregation you are. Won’t it be exciting to see what God has in store for us?!? I look forward to the “unfolding” of the year ahead.

Grace and peace to you all...

Pastor Karen

Church in Society Committee

Continue to pray for the Grow-Hanson family in Senegal. This message was received at Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

We wish you a peaceful and joyous 2010!

It has been another fulfilling year in Senegal for our family. Although school and work were not without their challenges, we have been blessed with a year to remember with joy and thanksgiving. By far the highlight was a three-week vacation in Italy this past summer.

In 2010 our lives will continue to be filled with school work and music, basketball and soccer, working with SIT students, and mentoring pastors and other leaders in the Lutheran Church of Senegal. We look forward to Peter completing his DMin in May, followed by three months in the USA for home assignment, during which we hope to see many of you in person.

Carol Halverson
Church in Society Committee



11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, Wisconsin 54840
Craig M. Corbin, Director

715-689-2347

Greetings from Luther Point!

February 2010

Summer 2010—Put Us on Your Calendar Moms: This is a special word to our moms who are beginning to look ahead to the summer of 2010. The camp schedule is on the Luther Point website: **LutherPoint.org**. Online registration is available now so register early, especially for the Specialty Camps, like Horse Camp, Guitar, Drama, etc. those programs fill up early. Once again, there will be a number of Incentives and Discounts, so take advantage! **Camperships will also be available.** Look for Campership request form on the webpage: **lutherpoint.org**. Summer Brochures will be in congregations and homes by early February.

RETREAT OFFERINGS: Check our website for more details regarding upcoming retreat events scheduled for the winter months ahead, some of the offerings include:

- **Ambassador Retreats:** February 6 or February 27, 9 am
- **3rd-5th Grade Weekend Camp:** March 20-21, 2010
- **Prayer Shawl Retreat:** April 22, 2010, 9 am-3pm

Register online or call and talk with Lisa. 715-689-2347

Luther Point Ambassador Retreats: These retreats are a time to come together, get some fun, new ideas and receive information to promote Summer Camp and Retreats. The Retreats will be held February 6 and 27 from 9 am until after lunch. If your church does not have an Ambassador, please come to one and share in the fun!

Looking for Summer Ministry Team Applicants: Do you know of someone from your congregation who enjoys working with youth? Do they have a desire to share their life and faith with people? Please encourage those young college students to consider summer employment at Luther Point Bible Camp. Applications for summer employment are available on our website. Scroll down to the employment section on the left hand tool bar. Plant a seed in the life of a college student. Also, Jesse Weiss, Program Coordinator is looking for high school students who are interested in spending two weeks at camp in the **BUDDIES Program** (Building Up Dedicated Disciples Into Experienced Servants)

Congregations Set A Goal to Increase Camper Participation: I am asking each congregation to challenge themselves to set a specific goal for camper participation for this coming summer. I also ask that the goal be challenging. For the past two years the camp has seen a dramatic decline in the number campers coming to Bible Camp. **This trend simply cannot continue to happen.** If camper participation remains as it has been for the past two years, more pressure is put on congregational support, donor gifts and retreat source revenues.

Opening More Doors Together (OMDT) Capital Campaign Update: Congregational Leader training sessions were held January 9th and 10th. About 18 churches have leaders who have been trained on how to conduct a pledge drive in their congregations. Please consider being on a Congregational Task Force to conduct a campaign on behalf of Luther Point.

Thank you for your partnership!
Craig M. Corbin, Director

MISSION PROJECTS

Mission Projects for the months of February, March, and April are:

Health Kits, Sewing Kits, and Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Hospice/AIDS Kits for Global Health Ministries

At the top of the stairway in the church entry is a basket containing plastic bags to be filled with items for the Health, Sewing, and Hospice/AIDS Kits. Inside each bag is a list of items needed for each kit. Blankets, Fabric, and Bed Sheets in good condition are needed to make Quilts. Information can also be found on the WELCA bulletin board downstairs in the hallway by the library entrance.

The Visitation Committee is looking for more volunteers to make visits to homebound and nursing home people. If you are interested, please contact Al Agen at 822-4953.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2010

Attending: Cathy Koser, Todd Ahneman, Pastor Karen Hofstad, Keith Johnson, Sally Landstrom, Joe Brown, Carol Wallin, Candace Jacobs, Diane Carlson

Absent: Laura Lindquist, Mark Ruppel, Marty Voshell, Karyn Hullinger, Bob Chubb

Council President Todd Ahneman called the meeting to order.

Pastor Karen Hofstad gave devotions and led the group in prayer.

Diane Carlson made a motion to approve the agenda. Candace Jacobs seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Dally Landstrom made a motion to prove the December 15, 2009 minutes along with the December 29, 2009 Budget meeting minutes as written. Joe Brown seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Carol Wallin gave the **Finance committee** report along with the **Treasurer's report.**

12/31/09

Balance in Checking	\$40,399.12
Money Market Savings	\$23,725.82
Building Fund Checking	\$16,725.32
Loan Balance	\$347,234.31

The Audit committee found everything to be in order. Council had a heartfelt "Thank You!" for their hard work. Candace Jacobs made a motion to accept the Finance and Treasurer's report as give. Joe Brown seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hofstad said that on March 20, 2010 the Synod is putting on a Congregational Resource event in Chippewa Falls at the Middle School. This is a way to train council members and lay people on how to be more effective and learn what resources are available to them.

Pastor will be doing her first coaching session on Hand in Hand next week with Carole DeJardin.

The newsletter will have a more detailed report.

President's report: Todd Ahneman reported on the exit interview that was held with Pastor Jeanne Warner. The interview was held between the Executive committee and Pastor Jeanne. A written report of comments was done. A copy of the report is as follows:

Exit Interview

January 5, 2010 at 7:00pm

Interim Pastor Jeanne Warner and Executive Committee of Augustana Lutheran Church

Attending: Rev. Jeanne Warner, Todd Ahneman (Council President), Keith Johnson (Vice President)

Reviewed the history of the interim ministers: Pastors Chet Hoversten, Jennifer Elmquist and Jeanne Warner. Observation that their ministry was primarily pastoral and not interim work dealing with unresolved conflict and stress issues between Pastor Halaas and the leadership or parishioners, though that would have been useful. In hindsight, the synod should have been informed and involved as this arose, before Pastor Halaas left so the Synod staff could address this.

Items seen by Pr. Warner that need to be worked on:

- Clearly define the role of pastor as Chief of Staff
- Define accountability of other staff to Pastor in regards to activities and attendance
- Develop a flow chart for understanding who to go to for various questions and know how and where responsibility for decisions lies.
- Review existing job descriptions with Pastor Karen
- Have Jene and Carole record and turn into Pastor Karen their weekly schedules of activities and times so she can understand the flow and scope of work.
- Reestablish weekly staff meetings
- Establish set office hours for staff
- Have staff review work with Pastor Karen, redefine activities and duties as needed
- Perhaps clarify how Christian Ed., Youth, and Hand-in-Hand work together or separately
- Provide performance reviews of staff in spring, separate from any wage discussions
- Produce higher quality publications for church use as it reflects upon our whole public image
- Publish church (and youth) activity calendars well in advance and stick to them

- Review or reestablish church use policies
Review membership roles; contact and encourage inactive members.

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Todd Ahneman said their committee would be meeting this week.

Property: Keith Johnson reported that he would be looking into the sidewalk shoveling issue. Some members have had to do this because the person hired is not showing up after some snow. Members are putting ice melt salt on the sidewalks also. These people just want clarity as to who is responsible for this.

Christian Ed: Diane Carlson said that she has met with the new Pastor and Pastor Karen was introduced to the Sunday school. Goals for the future were discussed.

Congregational Care: Candace Jacobs talked about her new ideas for graduate ministry. She has been using Facebook to connect with the college students that she is aware of. This is not just a posting of events happening but just a word of encouragement and friendship from Augustana. The Council thought this was a fantastic idea. The devotional books have been re-issued by the congregational care committee. There were more than enough funds in their budget to get them for the congregation.

Cathy Koser thanked the council for their support during her two terms on the council. She will be continuing her organizing of the Lenten suppers.

Communications Committee: The Communications committee did not meet this month. However we did get out the Annual Report. Due to the lack of reports and information, we were unable to get the report out two weeks prior to the annual meeting as intended. We would like to recommend that next year the annual meeting be held the last Sunday in January and the committee's reports be turned in earlier than some were this year. It is important that the reports be in the hands of the congregation at least two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting. Our other projects such as the directory and the 125th Anniversary Celebration are on going.

Church in Society: Fair Trade coffee and chocolate will be sold on the first Sunday in February.

Youth Committee: Joe Brown would like to have Carole DeJardin have a written report of Youth activities for each council meeting. The council does not need her present, but would like to have updates monthly during their planning meetings.

Old Business: Todd Ahneman requested that the few committees that still have not turned in a committee description for the Council handbook. PLEASE get this done!

New Business: When the Council organizational meeting will meet will be planned briefly after the Annual meeting.

Pastor Karen Hofstad made a motion to designate \$14,000 of the cash salary for 2010, to be paid to Reverend Hofstad as housing/furnishing allowance in response to the Pastor's request and acknowledgement that the allowances so designated, does not exceed the fair rental value of her home, furnished, plus cost of utilities. Sally Landstrom seconded this motion. **Motion Carried.**

This is just a rearranging of her cash salary for tax purposes. There is no change in the amount of her salary and benefit package.

- Reminder: The Annual meeting will be held January 24, between services.

Keith Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Candace seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Koser

Happy Birthday in February to:

- 1 Todd Ahneman, Andrew Visger
- 2 Sharon Haugerud, Alice Matthys
- 3 Casey Sutherland
- 4 Fran Chubb, Steve Komarek, Hunter White
- 5 Bennett Moravitz, Jacob Neurer, Mervin Olson, Martha Voshell
- 6 Cathy Koser
- 7 Chad Catlin, Nikki Malone, Susan Moravitz
- 8 James Koser, Lorraine Neurer, Dane Nickell
- 10 Carole DeJardin, Nicholas Stevens
- 11 Elaine Ekenstedt

- 12 Carly Friess, Mackenzie Johnson,
Cameryn Moravitz, Doris Thompson
- 13 Colleen Warner
- 14 Betty Anderson, Sarah Hall
- 16 Anne Selle, Quinn Stetler
- 17 Brady Paffel
- 18 Keith Anderson, Shelby Graf
- 19 Kathy Kreger, Shayla Newville
- 20 Joel Barker, Reid Olson
- 22 Stephanie Brown
- 23 Colin Elfers, Joshua Weaver
- 24 Mary Farley, Meagen Koser
- 26 Jacob Becker
- 27 Jacob Burling, Craig Friess
- 28 Katie Garling

Wedding Anniversary wishes to:

- 1 Brian and Darcy Paffel
- 6 Jim and Denise Reidy
- 7 Richard and Lorraine Neurer
- 10 Les and Jeanne Sitz
- 14 Gary and Marge Bergmann
Susie Caughey and Tom Schaffer
- 15 James and Cathy Koser
- 25 Todd and Janice Ahneman
Carol and George Leopold
- 27 Doug and Barb Garling

**REMEMBER THE MILLIE CARLSON
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Yes, it is 2010! Some of us may be struggling with trying to remember that it is 2010, but not our high school seniors. This year is much too important to them. In 2003, Pastor Halaas initiated the Augustana Scholarship Fund. We are especially grateful to him and to all of you who are contributing to the fund. We do want this project to continue! Thank you so much! Seniors, an application form will soon reach you!

Sixth Graders Lenten Supper Cooking Activity

Attention sixth graders! You will have an opportunity to help prepare part of a healthy meal for our congregation to share at the Lenten supper on Wednesday, March 3. Plan to meet Mrs. Wiita and other adult volunteers for fun and fellowship while we prepare nourishing food for our church family.

WHEN:

3:45 PM to 5 PM on Wednesday, March 3.

WHERE: In the church kitchen

Join us for
Cumberland Food Distribution
The First Saturday of Every Month
In conjunction with Ruby's Pantry
At Cumberland Elementary School
1520 Second Avenue

Bring Your Own Containers for Food
Ticket sales begin at 7:30 a.m.
Distribution begins at 8:00 a.m.

This food distribution has
NO INCOME REQUIREMENTS

\$15.00 donation appreciated.
Cash only, please.

Typical food includes meat, fresh fruits, veggies, bread, dairy and snacks.
(Food and quantities differ each month.)

Volunteers needed. Call 715-822-2830.



Saint Valentine

On February 14, many Christians celebrate Valentine's Day. Valentine, a Roman priest, was made a martyr in 270 A.D. because of his love of Christ and his persistence in the Christian way of life. He often ended his kind and helpful letters to others with the words "Your Valentine." Later, as Christians remembered and honored this saint, they signed their letters of affection with the same words.

St. Valentine is considered by some Christians to be the patron saint of lovers and the helper of those who are unhappily in love. Some Christians call St. Valentine's Day a feast day. It seems fitting for all Christians to make it a "love feast" day. Make it a day when we joyfully share our love and appreciation for our dear friends, family members and all those who are part of the family of God.

Census Bureau is now hiring for temporary, part-time positions. Work in your community. Flexible hours, \$12.75 an hour and \$.50 per mile. Call 1-866-861-2010 to locate a test site near you. Check the bulletin board by the office for details.

Check out the Youth and Family Institute Resource and Gift Center items that are on display and for purchase in the Great Hall.

Lutheran World Relief EMERGENCY UPDATE HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Dear Friends,

With more than 100,000 dead, more than 1 million homeless on the streets, and up to 80 percent of buildings in Port-au-Prince destroyed, the need is still dire. And significant aftershocks still continue.

But the good news is that aid is finally starting to get in to Haiti. And we are working with a team of 400 people on the ground to provide immediate access to water, food and shelter.

LWR has pledged \$1 million to overall relief work in Haiti and has committed an initial \$150,000 to the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to deliver water containers and purification materials, as well as temporary shelter items. We anticipate that we will need more than \$1 million to assist those in need in Haiti, thus we will reevaluate that pledge as the need and fundraising increase.

LWR is providing these immediate services through our partnerships with LWF, Catholic Relief Services, local partners in Haiti, and other international faith-based organizations. And we're also preparing a long-term response to help the people of Haiti rebuild their lives.

 **DONATE NOW**

How can you help? You can make a gift online to help LWR and our partners with these critical relief efforts. **Or** you can make a \$10 donation **NOW** by texting **LWR** to **40579** (use this number in the "to" field).

You can also make **quilts** and [health kits](#) . There is an urgent need for these materials. We are dispatching them from our warehouses, and first shipments will leave in the next three days.

We are working around the clock to ensure we have the most up-to-date information possible. Please check back with us at lwr.org/Haiti for updates.

Thank you for your quick and compassionate response to this devastating situation.

In Christ,



John A. Nunes

President and CEO

Lutheran World Relief



Children peer out from a blanket after Tuesday's major earthquake in Haiti. REUTERS/Jorge Silva, courtesy www.alertnet.org.

 **DONATE NOW**

**Thrivent Members,
Have Your Gift
Matched!**

 **Find Out How**

Thank you to those serving in February

If you cannot serve on your scheduled Sunday, please find a substitute or call the church office

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

February 7

Elevator Operator

Susan Jungerberg 822-3800

Greeters

Keith/Sheri Johnson 822-4194

Ushers

Pete Bergmann 822-3290

Gary Lundquist 822-2652

Worship Assistant

Vonnie Schell 822-8863

Reader

Vonnie Schell 822-8863

Coffee Servers

Janice Ahneman 822-4475

Tom/Becky Bents 822-8961

Mark Ruppel 822-4017

Shirley Anne Evenson 822-3397

February 14

Elevator Operator

Dean Bergstrom 822-2551

Greeters

Gary/Marge Bergmann 822-2566

Ushers

Pete Bergmann 822-3290

Gary Lundquist 822-2652

Worship Assistant

Val Sutherland 822-8353

Reader

Jaylen Lansin 822-8910

Coffee Servers

Chad Olson 822-5707

Colleen Warner 822-6327

Fred/Elaine Warwick 822-2814

Alan Carlson 822-3628

Barb Agen-Glaubitz 822-3243

February 21

Elevator Operator

Judy Lundquist 822-2652

Greeters

Dan/Ruth Shoemaker 822-2712

Ushers

Pete Bergmann 822-3290

Gary Lundquist 822-2652

Worship Assistant

Kip Wiita 822-4955

Reader

Kip Wiita 822-4955

Coffee Servers

Delores Sandve 822-2027

Elaine Olson 822-8349

Jan Schweiger 822-8079

Logan Boucher 822-2576

Hannah Kupferschmidt 822-2521

Carol Rohl 822-3551

James Koser 357-3020

Tim DeJardin 986-2966

February 28

Elevator Operator

Judy Lundquist 822-2652

Greeters

Mark/Sandi McHenry 822-3282

Ushers

Pete Bergmann 822-3290

Gary Lundquist 822-2652

Worship Assistant

Sally Landstrom 822-3554

Reader

Sally Landstrom 822-3554

Coffee Servers

Tim DeJardin 986-2966

Jan Randa 822-3580

Alan Carlson family 822-3628

John Westin 822-3868

Diana Ficocello 822-4627

Ash Wednesday

Elevator Operator

Tim DeJardin 986-2966

Greeter

Elaine Olson 822-8349

Ushers

Diana Ostness 822-3171

Jan Schweiger 822-8079

Hannah Kupferschmidt 822-2521

Lenten Worship February 24

Elevator Operator

Jan Schweiger 822-8079

Greeter

Colleen Warner 822-6327

Ushers

Karyn Hullinger 822-4487

Jan Schweiger 822-8079

Logan Boucher 822-2576

ALTAR CARE

Carol Rohl and Kim Gosda

OFFERING RESPONSIBILITY

Mark Ruppel and Tom Hallgren

GREETING CARD MINISTRY

Sandi McHenry