



St. Augustine Episcopal Church

Rev. Meredyth Albright

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December, 2025



Upcoming Events



- **Thursday, December 18: Blue Christmas Service: 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church**
- **Saturday, December 20: Holiday Light Tour, followed by Soup Supper: Light Tour begins at 5 p.m.**
- **Sunday, December 21: Greening of the Church: following mass.**
- **Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service: Hymn Sing at 6:30 followed by Christmas Mass at 7 p.m.**
- **Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Mass: 9 a.m.**

Dear St. Augustine's Family;

Many people look forward to Advent Season because they know it leads to Christmas, or because they enjoy the tradition of lighting the Advent candles each week. The lighting of the candles is a tangible sign of Advent's presence.

The Magnificat, also known as The Song of Mary, is another reinforcer of Advent to me.

The text of the canticle is taken from Luke 1:46-55; it is the story of Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. The fun part of the text is that during that visit, John jumped in Elizabeth's womb. This was seen as a significant sign of who and what Jesus would be.

The words attributed to Mary are considered one of the eight most ancient hymns and the earliest hymn about Mary.

You will probably hear the Magnificat several times during Advent, but if you don't, here is the modern version of these lines from the Gospel of Luke.

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for He has looked with favor on His humble servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed,
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.
He has mercy on those who fear Him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of His servant Israel
for He has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise He made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen, Alleluia.*

The words of this text can be considered prophetic because they summarize so much of what Jesus and his actions accomplished in his short life, and in the lives of many to come.

Blessings of the Advent Season.

Meredyth+

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) News and Upcoming events:

The next ECW meeting is December 15th. We will gather at 10:30 to decorate cookies and will have take-out from Jimmy John's at noon and a short meeting to follow. Cookies will already be baked, but feel free to bring anything you already have to use in the decorating.

Christmas is coming! Join us December 6th for the craft and bake sale in the guild hall. This will be a great opportunity to purchase some Christmas gifts (we still have cookbooks left too). Funds raised help provide for needs in our community.

Congratulations to Amy Laxton who will serve as the ECW president for the new year!

Veteran's Dinner

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Veteran's Dinner. We served about 65 people and the guild hall was full of laughter and conversation. A special thank you to Larry and Judy Slowiak for the gorgeous table decorations and to Judy Slowiak for making her amazing tartar sauce and coleslaw. Thank you also to Jake Kulba for assisting with setting up the sound system, and thank you to Paul Thompson, videographer. We will send the YouTube link out when it's available. Thank you to Brandi Wayt for creating beautiful posters, programs, and her support. Thank you again to Steve Hagen, Amy Laxton, and Tony Schoone, who cooked fish, and to everyone who baked desserts, made side dishes, set up, cleaned up and participated in the program. It takes a lot of people to make this happen.... Thank you all!

Blue Christmas

The Holidays can be a difficult time for many people, for many different reasons: they may feel down or lost, perhaps they have lost someone in their life, or Christmas may bring sad memories.

We often get caught up in the commercialized holidays and do not take care of ourselves. The Blue Christmas Service is an opportunity to reflect on yourself, appreciate some peace and quiet, and carry that internal calm and warmth through the holidays.

This year the Blue Christmas Service will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18 at First United Methodist Church, 724 Arbutus Street, Rhinelander.

Epiph-a-tea

A “High Tea”, or “Almost-High Tea” will be celebrated twice in January. On Tuesday, January 6, the actual day of Epiphany; and again, on Saturday, January 10, St. Augustine’s will host an Epiph-a-tea. As its name suggests, the event will be a tea party featuring tea both traditional and not-so-traditional tea foods. Interspersed with the tea will be a program which will focus on gifts, just as the three kings brought gifts to baby Jesus on January 6, we all have gifts too.

The Epiph-a-tea event will be from 2 to 4 p.m. each day and will be open to the greater community, with a limit of 40 attendees each day; reservations will be required. There will be no charge; a freewill offering will be collected to offset the cost of the event.

A sign-up sheet will be available, or you can RSVP by emailing staugevents1892@gmail.com. There may also be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help a bit on the day of the tea.

Plan to attend and enjoy an afternoon of tea, fun and learning about gifts!

ERD Holiday Match

Episcopal Relief & Development has launched its annual Holiday Match Campaign. Every donation made now through December 31, 2025, will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1,000,000.

Support of the campaign will be used by ERD global partners to make a lasting impact through long-term programs in their local communities, focusing on...

- ...supporting women farmers from rural communities in Guatemala to build climate and financial resilience.
- ...equipping young men and women in Ghana to be catalysts for positive change in their communities.
- ...facilitating economic empowerment in communities around the world through participant-led savings groups.
- ...walking alongside caregivers to promote the wellbeing and healthy development of young children.
- ...challenging and changing harmful behaviors that put women and girls at risk of violence.
- ...responding to global disasters, wars and other crises, and accompanying people as they recover.

Donors wishing to take advantage of the dollar-for-dollar match should give their gift between now and December 31. You may receive a 2025 tax deduction. Donate online or call 1-855-312-4325. Gifts can also be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 5121 Boone, IA 50950-0121.

For more than 80 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been working together with supporters and partners for lasting change around the world. Each year the organization facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives for close to 3 million people struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease.

The Table

December's Table meal will be held on Tuesday, December 30. December is the only month of the year during which The Table meal is not held on the last day of the month.

Immanuel Lutheran Church will be the December host. Judy Beyer will be the point-person for the night. If you are able to help, please sign up to do so.

ZOOM LINK

To connect to 9 a.m. Sunday services through video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87650467135?pwd=lcW4wr0z4JjpCyf2yrsi46cfXZcHbH.1>

To connect by telephone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 876 5046 7135

Passcode: 354817

Office Hours

The Administrative Office is generally open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mother Meredyth's office is generally open Monday through Thursday. If you are planning to stop in to see her, please call first to make sure she is available.