



St. Augustine Episcopal Church

Rev. Meredyth Albright

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February, 2026

Dear St. Augustine's family;

One of the earlier memories I have of attending church during Lent is being there on a Wednesday night, it was dark and cold outside, lights were low inside, and I was sitting to the right of my mom. I have no idea where my dad and sister were in the row, or if they were even there that night. I'm remembering that I was 7 or so years old, so getting tired at that time of night was reasonable. I curled up against my mom, closed my eyes and just listened to everything happening around me.

What I remember is the congregation saying the Apostles' Creed. What stuck out for me was hearing my mother, and others, but she was closest to me, say the phrase, "the quick and the dead." We now tend to say, "the living and the dead."

I remember imagining a row of figures all lined up racing toward death. There must have been a black cloth hanging in the church, because that is also in my memory.

I think my young mind may have been ahead of its ability to understand what it was thinking about. But now, when I remember that, I think about how we do line up for death. Not that anyone wants to die yet, but getting to the finish line with God can sometimes seem like being in a race.

I am often asked in what order God answers prayer. How long do we have to wait for our prayer to be answered? That's where the lining up comes; people want to move quickly to get their prayers ahead of someone else's. Although, I don't think that is how it works with God. Remember, God is not fully human. His son is. God is a being not like us; and is able to do things in ways we can't understand.

Lent can so encapsulate the feeling of racing. As the story of Jesus' life unfolds, we want to hurry up; we want to skip the unpleasantness and get to Easter. That's a pleasant day because all of the ugly, dark happenings are behind us, and we can focus on being happy and living alongside Jesus.

Before we get there, we work to understand Jesus and his life.

The season of Lent offers us the opportunity to meet and understand God's son, Jesus. Through Jesus' trials and tribulations, we learn about suffering, and patience, and rewards. The journey that we make during Lent can also be dark, but our parallel journey with Jesus helps us to understand and appreciate our lives when Easter does arrive. To help you walk this journey, we will offer several opportunities for reflection and learning; times to walk with Jesus. These opportunities are listed elsewhere in the bulletin.

One aspect of worship that will be different is that on Sundays during Lent, we will use Eucharistic Prayer C. On Wednesday we will use the traditional Rite I.

Prayer C is often used during Lent because of its emphasis on the Eucharist; and the fact that it emphasizes the themes of thanksgiving and remembrance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice. It is also referred to, jokingly, as the Star Wars Eucharist, because of its reference to all things celestial.

Blessings for a Holy Lent.

Faithfully

Meredyth+

Annual meeting, Feb. 1

St. Augustine's annual meeting will be Sunday, February 1, following the worship service. There will also be a potluck meal. A sign-up sheet is in the guild hall.

The budget for 2026 will be presented and vestry members will be elected, as will delegates to the diocesan convention which will be October 2 and 3 in Stevens Point. You will also receive reports from various ministries of the church.

Shrove Tuesday on Sunday

We will enjoy a “Shrove Tuesday pancake meal” on Sunday, February 15. Pancakes and sausage, juice, etc. will be offered. The pancake breakfast will be held during coffee hour.

Bring your palms

Please bring your palms from previous years to church before February 15. The palms will be burned, outside, during coffee hour. The ash will then be used during Ash Wednesday services.

Ash Wednesday

Two Ash Wednesday services with Eucharist and imposition of ashes will be held on Wednesday, February 18. Services will be at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross and Taize

Stations of the Cross will be held at 5:30 p.m. each Friday between February 20 and March 27. On Good Friday, it will be held at approximately 1:30 p.m., following the noon Good Friday service. Some weeks we will offer a Taize service following the Stations of the Cross. That schedule is being finalized.

Stations of the Cross is an opportunity to walk with Jesus through his last days of his life. The service lasts 20 to 30 minutes. We stop by each Station of the Cross plaque in the sanctuary and pray briefly about the event represented at the station.

Taize is a meditative, music service where the songs are simple and repetitive; allowing for time to think and get lost in the words.

Devotional Discussion

Tuesdays in Lent, between February 24 and March 24, members of St. Augustine’s and St. Matthias, Minocqua, will delve into the “Living Well Through Lent, 2026” devotional. This conversation will begin at 3 p.m., via Zoom. If you do not have Zoom, you may come to the church to join Mother Meredyth and share her Zoom access.

The devotionals will be available February 1.

Deserted Island Buddies

Do you remember last summer when Mother Meredyth asked you to list five people from the Bible you would want with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

She mentioned a couple of them in a sermon here and there over the summer. Now we will discuss them Sundays, at 10:30 a.m. These discussions will begin on February 22, and most likely continue into May or June, depending on the progress made, as some people will be discussed for more than one week. Some weeks there will be too much going on to meet during coffee hour.

Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner

Last year, ECW tried a new fundraiser, a Valentine's Day carryout lasagna dinner. It was a success, so it is a go again this year.

A meal for four will cost \$40 and include lasagna, salad, garlic bread and a Valentine's-themed dessert.

There are several sign-up sheets in the guild hall; sign up to order a meal, and to help in various capacities. There will be an opportunity to donate money to help purchase the items.

The deadline to order a meal is Monday, February 9. The meals will be available for pick up, or to be delivered, on Friday, February 13.

ECW meeting

ECW will meet at noon, on Monday, February 16, in the guild hall. Lunch will be provided.

ZOOM LINK

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87650467135?pwd=ICW4wr0z4JjpCyf2yrsi46cfXZcHbH.1>

To connect by telephone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 876 5046 7135

Passcode: 354817

Office Hours

Office hours are generally 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mother Meredyth is generally in the office during the office hours, on Monday, and as well as additional times. If you are planning to stop in to see her, please call first to make sure she is available.