



St. Augustine Episcopal Church

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June, 2025

Hello St. Augustine's family;

I am usually very excited when I get to learn something new---until it hurts my brain too much. That is exactly what is happening as I continue to think and read about "Christian Witness in a Crisis-Shaped World."

That was the topic of the presentations at our clergy conference in May. It's an interesting topic, and one that will require me to do a lot more thinking. I did purchase the book, "Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-Shaped World," by Jesse Zink, who was the speaker at the conference.

I will be reading that book while I am on retreat. The topic is an interesting one—with a rotating definition of crisis. The bottom line is, the topic is an extension of the on-going issue of how to make churches viable again.

For me, that raises the question of what does viable mean? It can mean attendance, and can also mean what are Christians doing in the general world – is our Christian message permeating all that challenges and distracts us?

One of the subtopics we discussed at the conference is how the world is viewed today, compared to 40 or 50 years ago. Everything now appears to have a monetary value attached to it, even if we don't think of someone or something in dollars-and-cents value. I find the initial information I have on this direction of thinking very interesting, and yes, hurting my brain. It appears that much of the past practice of just doing something because "it's the right thing to do" has gone by the wayside. I'm not sure if I agree with that or not. I'm hoping I discover some answers as I continue to learn about the "crisis-shaped world" in which we live.

I think you can count on walking this journey of discovery with me. I have no idea where it will lead, but I imagine the topic will appear in sermons and newsletters in the future.

Faithfully,

Meredyth+

Clean-up day, June 8

Bring your work clothes and elbow grease on Sunday, June 8. We are planning on cleaning, tidying, and spiffing up the church yard, and exterior of the building on that day. Clean-up will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a substantial coffee hour that will be available the entire time so you can get something to eat or drink as you like.

If Mother Nature messes with us, the work day will be postponed to June 15.

Learn about the Episcopal Church

Whether you're new to St. Augustine's, the Episcopal Church, or a long-time member who wants to know more about the church, this class might be for you.

We will use the book, "Welcome to the Episcopal Church," as our base source, to learn about the history, tradition and practices of the Episcopal Church. Class meeting time will be set once all interested have signed up and we can agree on a time that's most convenient for all.

This class will be especially helpful for those who are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church when Bishop Matt Gunter visits on August 10.

Please sign up in the guild hall.

Same-gender marriage conversations

The topic of same-gender marriage has been active in the Episcopal Church for more than a decade. In 2015, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church voted to allow and support same-gender marriage in the church. Part of the vote determined that bishops could allow each parish within the diocese to make its own decision about whether or not same-gender marriage ceremonies would take place in that particular church.

The process for making a determination is to hold a series of education sessions, then gather information from church members, after which the vestry votes on whether or not same-gender marriages would take place in that church.

St. Augustine's has not yet gone through that process of determination.

We will begin our education sessions on Sunday, June 15, primarily following a curriculum developed by Bishop Matt. The discussions will be held on Sundays, beginning June 15, at approximately 10:30 a.m. We will meet in the meeting room in the undercroft (basement) of the church.

Curriculum information will be available June 8. If you have any questions, talk to Mother Meredyth or any vestry member.

ACES Collection

Thank you to all who donated to the ACES collection. We collected just under \$2,000, which included a generous gift from ECW. These contributions, along with collections from other churches, should help immensely in providing emergency services to people in our community.

Visit Order of Julian of Norwich monastery

You might be asking, “what is the Julian of Norwich monastery?” Good question.

The Order of Julian of Norwich is a contemplative monastic order of the Episcopal Church, located in rural White Lake, Wisconsin.

It has two branches—nuns living in community, and Oblates and Associates dispersed in all walks of life. Together, they are committed to intercession and conversion of life, following the teaching of Saint Julian of Norwich.

Two dates, July 15 and August 15, have been selected as tentative dates for our visit to the monastery. We are limited to 10 people per visit.

We will spend a couple of hours there – attending a noon-day service, having a tour and learning a bit about Julian of Norwich, the inspiration for the organization.

Please sign up in the Guild Hall if you are interested. Ask Mother Meredyth if you have questions.

For more information, visit the webpage: [The Order of Julian of Norwich](#)

ECW Upcoming events

- The next ECW meeting is June 9 - noon potluck at the church.
- Women's Night Out will be June 23 at Nutzees:
[N9831 County Road B, Gleason, WI 54435](#)

We will meet there at 4:00.

If you wish to carpool, meet at the church at 3:30.

See the sign-up sheet at the back of the guild hall.

- September 6 – Farmer’s Market craft and bake sale.
Watch for a sign-up sheet later in the summer.



Scarves for Mariners

We have the opportunity again to make scarves for the Christmas at Sea for the Seamen's Institute. Mother Meredyth and our convention delegates will take them to diocesan convention in October. More info and patterns are available on the Seamen's website via the following link:

[Patterns & Publications - Seamen's Church Institute](#)

Mother Meredyth's late May, early June schedule

Mother Meredyth will be on retreat at Spent Dandelion Retreat Center in Two Harbors, MN from May 27 through June 2. She will also be gone June 20-22 for a family funeral in Brainerd, MN. In early June, there are a few days when she may be gone a half day for her diocesan work.

NEW ZOOM LINK

We have a new Zoom link, that will hopefully work for everyone.

To connect 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.