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## Mission Statement

Guided by the Holy Spirit we gather in Christian community, reach out and invite, offer hope and healing in Jesus Christ, and walk humbly with God.

## Senior Pastor

### God is up to something at Augustana.

In 2008 and now in 2009, it is apparent that God...

- ... is raising a new generation of committed and talented leaders at Augustana.
- ... is welcoming even more children into mission at Augustana.
- ... is leveraging our friendships into new ideas for ministry.
- ... is turning Augustana to listen better for what God is up to in its neighborhood and territory.
- ... is calling the Early Learning Center, the Foundation, Augustana Arts, and the congregation into more significant partnership.
- ... is showing Augustana how it can be God's Good News in difficult economic times.
- ... calls us all to new levels of responsible wellness and health.
- ... uses us to share with our neighbors from our goods and our talents.
- ... uses the wisdom and experience of some generations to mentor the energy of others.

## Worship and Learning

- 8 a.m. **Worship/Communion**  
- Christ Chapel
- 9:15 a.m. **Christian Learning for all ages**  
September–May
- 10:30 a.m. **Worship** - Sanctuary  
Communion on first and third  
Sundays
- Noon **Prayers** - Christ Chapel
- Dial-a-Care** (24-hour devotion):  
303-313-3428

- ... updates the Anna Paulson Room and keeps us all dry with a new roof.
- ... leads us to continued good stewardship in uncertain times.
- ... uses musicians and singers to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ.
- ... prepares and nurtures all generations for ministry through learning.
- ... and announces the Good News faithfully and clearly through Word and Sacrament among us in word and deed.

Indeed, God is up to something at Augustana. The details and highlights you will find in the rest of the pages of this Annual Report. And more than that, God is up to something in your life as well. Perhaps it's time for you to write your own Annual Report, accounting for God's leading with you in 2008 and into 2009. Let us all bless God for what God is up to in our congregation and in our lives!

**Pastor John R. Pederson**

## Augustana Altar Guild

During 2008, the 28 members of Augustana's Altar Guild have continued to be led by the Holy Spirit as six teams have gathered for their weekly ministries of:

- Preparing the Sanctuary and Christ Chapel for worship
- Caring for the altar, pulpit, and lectern paraments and the fair linens
- Setting up all the items used for each baptism, and making baptismal napkins
- Pressing and laundering all of the robes used by the crucifers, acolytes, and communion assistants

Also, during the year the Altar Guild has continued its traditional participation in the following congregational events:

- Preparing and serving a light supper for the Advent Adventure participants
- Donating Easter or Thanksgiving baskets to the Warren Village Project
- Supporting the Youth Trip to China
- Stripping the chancel in the Sanctuary to close the Maundy Thursday worship service in preparation for Good Friday
- Participating in the annual Volunteer Ministry Fair
- Making and serving a soup supper before one of the Mid-week Lenten Studies

We have reached out to invite others to share in this ministry of quiet joy, and also welcome them to gather with the entire Guild four evenings during the year for learning, sharing, planning, fellowship, devotions, and inspiration.

**2008 Officers:** President, Dinah Schlecht; Vice-president, Cindy Maxwell; Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Whitehurst

**2009 Officers:** President, Cindy Maxwell; Vice-president, Arlien Johnson; Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Whitehurst

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



This Christ-centered ministry continues to offer prayer, loving care, and listening to those in need of short-term support and encouragement. People who are experiencing job loss, financial worries, grief, divorce, or illness often seek out a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are very extensively trained to be present on a weekly basis for care receivers. Also, Stephen Ministers meet monthly over dinner to share and to study. Currently we are discussing Sarah Butler's book, *Caring Ministry*, which is personally nurturing as well as giving us insights into our ministry.

We welcome inquiries or questions about this heartfelt ministry.

**Augustana's 2008 Stephen Leaders:** Sheryl Stenseth and Malise de Bree

**Stephen Ministers:** Gail Bartels, Lyn Goodrum, Audrey Haber, Betty Harper, Kay Landers, Carol Tamminga, Liisa B. Wilson

**Malise de Bree, Stephen Leader**

## Worship Attendance

### Average weekly attendance

	2007	2008
8 a.m.	89	90
10:30 a.m.	267	253
Midweek Lent	32	16

### Attendance Totals

Ash Wednesday	231	242
Maundy Thursday	301	*132
Good Friday	186	234
Easter	991	1,082
Thanksgiving Eve	351	303
Christmas	1,021	857

*\*data only available for 11 a.m. worship*

## Volunteer Ministry Committee

We lifted up the volunteers in each of our ministries with various celebrations which included: a Valentine's Day Tea Party for our office volunteers; a Scripture Readers Wine and Cheese Get Together; an Ushers/Van Drivers Pizza Party (they got to pick the toppings); a "Quiet Ministries" Super Hero Party; and a Prayer Leaders Brunch. All of these were particularly helpful as we were able to get to know our volunteers in a more personal and casual setting.

Once again, "Discover Augustana!" Sunday was a fun-filled event. We hosted the various ministries who shared their different activities.

To add to the festivities, we had a strolling violinist and a clown. After the 10:30 worship service that day, many of the families joined us in Fellowship Hall for walking tacos and fellowship.

We asked each volunteer to fill out an evaluation and feedback form critiquing their duties and asking what kind of support they needed from us. We received some very positive comments and helpful suggestions. We also developed a "Spiritual Assessment" tool that is now given to each of the new members at one of their New Member classes. These are designed to help the new members see where their talents are and to help them become involved at Augustana as soon as possible.

We will continue to find ways to support and thank our many faithful volunteers through 2009.



Office Helpers Valentine Party: Mary Ann Shippey, Karen Monson, Amelia Wilkins, Hattie Post, Phyllis Imholte, Bea Jerke, Marge Tokheim, Dianne Nelson, and Carolyn Johnson

**2008 Members:** Louise James, Dianne Nelson, Marcia Olson, Joe Tripp, Nancy Vikman

**2009 Members:** Louise James, Dianne Nelson, Joe Tripp, Council Liaison TBD

Mary Ann Shippey,  
Administrator of  
Volunteer Ministry  
and Building Use

## Membership

<b>Beginning 2008</b>	1,658
Statistical adjustment	4
<b>Members Received</b>	
Baptisms	17
New Members	31
<b>Total New Members Received</b>	48
<b>Members Removed</b>	
Death	28
Transfer	14
Other/Dropped	6
<b>Total Members Removed</b>	48
<b>Ending 2008</b>	1,662

## Personnel Committee

Beyond its usual responsibilities, the Personnel Committee focused on three special initiatives during the year: 1) establishing an IRS-mandated Employee 403(b) Retirement Plan, 2) developing a Personnel Policy Manual for the Augustana Early Learning Center, and 3) making arrangements related to Pastor John Pederson's sabbatical leave.

Pursuant to new IRS requirements that require churches to have a formal retirement plan in place for their employees by January 1, 2009, the committee solicited bids for 403b plans. After reviewing the proposals submitted, the Principal plan was selected with McMahon & Company as the administrator.

The committee continued its work to update personnel policies for its staff. Using the Personnel Policy Manual approved in 2007 as the foundation, a special version was adapted for the Augustana Early Learning Center and approved by the Congregation Council. Our thanks go to Paula Keller, Center Administrator, for advising the committee about this specialized staff.

With Pastor John Pederson's scheduled Sabbatical Leave from April 1 to June 30, the committee was involved in making necessary arrangements. With leadership from Margaret Aarestad and Nancy Cowee, the committee was instrumental in hosting a congregational Scottish Send-Off and a Welcome Back coffee for Pastor Pederson. His sabbatical report was accepted and shared with the congregation. We are grateful for Pastor John Bengston's willingness to serve full-time as Acting Senior Pastor during this time.

In more routine matters, the committee accepted several resignations and approved several appointments. Performance reviews were completed on all staff, and salary recommendations for the 2009 Budget included a small cost-of-living adjustment for eligible staff and a few merit increases. Budget recommendations also included planning for a significant increase in health insurance costs which was partially offset by a decrease in workers' compensation premiums due to Augustana's good loss ratio history.

Members of the 2008 Personnel Committee were Marilyn Stember (Chair), Norm Aarestad, Jack Bartels, Jon Genovese, Sarah Jacobsen, and Pastor John Pederson.

**Marilyn Stember, Chair**

## Administrator of Volunteer Ministry and Building Use

It's been a busy year at Augustana as far as building use is concerned. We welcomed back the Chinese Heritage Camp which literally takes over Augustana for three days in the middle of summer with families around the country that have adopted children from China. Denver Public Schools held several teacher-training workshops during the summer and used up a LOT of toilet paper. We had the Swedish Women's Education Associations Christmas Bazaar which was a huge success for them. They are already making plans to hold it here again this year. We have a new group entitled "Wednesday Weavers." This group consists of 14 women who bring their looms in each week and gather for instruction, fellowship and, of course, weaving. We are now the host site for our local Neighborhood Watch Association.

The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church now holds their worship services in Christ Chapel on Sunday afternoon. This Church is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Synod, and we are pleased that we can be of assistance in getting this congregation started.

I continue to thoroughly enjoy my ministry here at Augustana and feel blessed to be working with so many gifted coworkers and volunteers. I look forward to doing more of God's work in the coming year.

**Mary Ann Shippey**

## Strategic Planning Committee

The goal of the Strategic Planning Committee is to lead Augustana in developing a long-range vision and plan with God's purpose for Augustana as its guiding principle. To achieve this, we are using a highly effective and proven 12–18 month process called Natural Church Development (NCD). NCD is an approach that strives to release the growth potential which God has put into every church. 2008 accomplishments toward this goal include:

- Conducting a survey of select congregational members to help analyze our congregation's effectiveness in eight key areas: Empowering Leadership, Gift-Based Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Effective Structures, Inspiring Worship Services, Holistic Small Groups, Need-Oriented Evangelism, and Loving Relationships. The stronger each area is, the more effective our congregation can be. Augustana's scores are relatively normal for ELCA congregations. The area we need to pay special attention to is Passionate Spirituality, which has to do with the vibrancy and the quality of our spiritual relationship with God.
- Coordinating a six-hour workshop, "God Is Up To Something At Augustana," in which 60 members participated. The workshop was led by Pastor Dave Daubert, Director for Renewal of Congregations for the ELCA, and Augustana's coach throughout the NCD process. The group engaged in a variety of interactive and



Jack and Gail Bartels, Lana Farrington, and Cindy Lindeen-Martin participate in the "God Is Up to Something" Workshop.

energizing faith exploration exercises focused on defining Augustana's mission and identifying key strengths, weaknesses, threats, and

opportunities facing our congregation. Please refer to [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org) for the complete output of this workshop.

- Initiating conversations with key contacts within the surrounding community, organizations affiliated with Augustana, and members to begin to identify where Augustana's current ministries and interests intersect with the needs around us

and with the work others in Denver are doing. The goal is to begin to outline some of the major areas where we will work together to impact the Denver area by expanding on existing and looking at new opportunities and to build intentionality into these relationships that will serve as a bridge to people connecting to Augustana.

- 2009 goals are to assimilate and build upon the information and ideas gathered in the above efforts to develop an overall strategy and to identify areas of emphasis to propel Augustana's future efforts and energies. The team will be seeking interested individuals to lead these key initiatives. If you would like more information or want to be involved, please contact Jesse Adkins or Janet Flesch.

**Members:** Jesse Adkins (Chair), Janet Flesch (Vice-Chair), Ken Beazer, Vivian Bengtson, Pastor Pederson, Olaf Siverson, Lisa Smith, Al Spies, and Pam Uyemura, Professional coach, Pastor Dave Daubert.

**Janet Flesch, Vice-Chair**

## Health Ministry and Parish Nurse

### Offering Hope and Healing in Jesus Christ

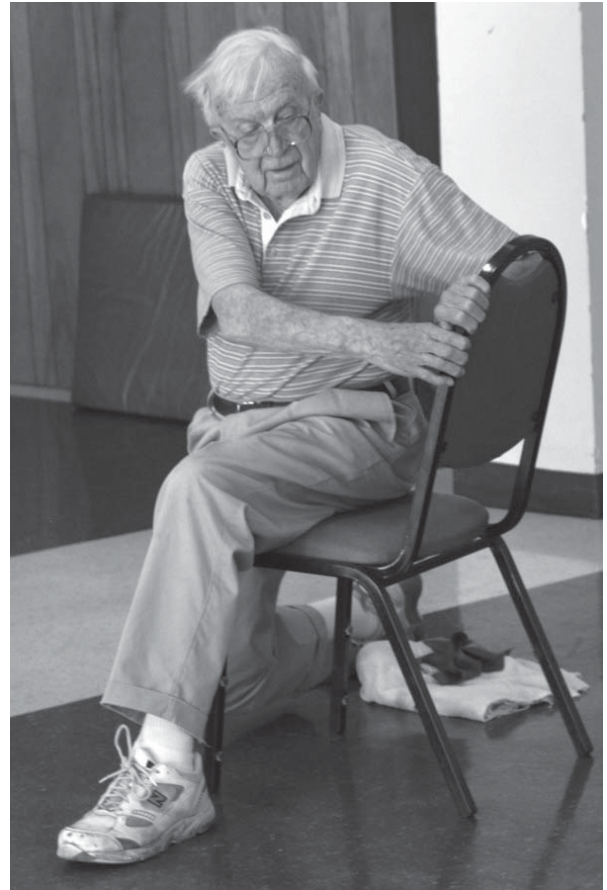
Healing and caring were part of Jesus' ministry and continue to belong to the church. During the past year, the Parish Nurse, along with the Health Ministry team, served members of Augustana and the broader community by providing services and opportunities for people to improve the health of their body, mind, and spirit. Activities and accomplishments in Health Ministry during 2008 include the following:

### Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- Provided more than 200 foot-care services during monthly Podiatry Clinics coordinated by Gail Bartels and staffed by the Denver Visiting Nurse Service.
- Offered a Flu Immunization Clinic in October with 75 participants.
- Collaborated with Belle Bonfils to conduct Blood Donor Drives in January and June.
- Invited National Jewish Hospital staff to provide a Pulmonary Function Screening event in June with many seniors attending.
- Supported Firm Believers, an individualized exercise class held three times a week led by Karen Terry, personal trainer.



Margaret Aarestad in gate pose in yoga class.



Spencer Toppen stretches at Firm Believers.

- Hosted Yoga classes each Wednesday led by Robyn Lambert, certified yoga instructor.
- Coordinated a two-day 9Health Fair in April that offered health awareness, screening, and other services to about 1,250 community participants.
- Offered two six-hour CPR certification courses.
- Contributed health-related information monthly in *The Tower*.
- Offered a Divorce Adjustment Support Group from September through December facilitated by Debbie Carter, Family Life Educator.
- Initiated a new Al-Anon Support Group in October led by Dallas Jensen which met weekly on Thursday evenings.

### Health Education

- Provided certification-required monthly Nursing Consultant services to the Augustana Early Learning Center and taught CPR, First Aid, and

Universal Precaution classes to Center staff.

- Staffed monthly Health Ministry Sundays where blood pressure screenings and education on a variety of health issues were provided.
- Sponsored workshop in January titled “Caring for Creation” led by Pastor Peter Sawtell, Eco-Justice Ministries.
- Organized “Caregiving Tips,” a workshop focused on emotional and physical challenges caregivers face, presented by Pat Holley, Alzheimer’s Association.

### **Integration of Faith and Health**

- Offered individual healing during Sunday worship services quarterly.
- Co-facilitated a six-week Grief Support Group for 12 people.
- Coordinated Stephen Ministry program and led monthly meetings for Augustana’s nine Stephen Ministers.
- Contributed health-related perspectives to weekly Pastoral Care Team meetings.
- Made numerous home, hospital, and nursing home visits and telephone consultations to members and friends in need of health and healing.
- Acted as a referral source, connecting people with appropriate community services.
- Attended Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium in St. Louis, MO in September.
- Provided staff support for the Senior Retreat at Rainbow Trail in October.
- Coordinated the Prayer Shawl Ministry which met monthly on first Sundays that resulted in giving 28 prayer shawls to those in need of comfort and solace.

The Health Ministry Committee met every other month to plan, implement, and evaluate Augustana’s Health Ministry program. **Members included:** Joyce Thomson (Chairperson), Sheryl Stenseth (Parish Nurse), EJ Amrhein (Secretary), Marilyn Stember, Nancy and John Cowee, David Weir, Sid Altum, Angela Dirr, Diane McFadden, Janis Johnson, and Joy Hawkins (Congregation Council Liaison). The

committee welcomes your programmatic suggestions for 2009.

**Joyce Thomson and Sheryl Stenseth**

### **Library Committee**

The Ammerman Library has continued to be used as a meeting place for staff, new members and committees throughout 2008. The library volunteers also sponsored three events last year:

- Sunday, May 4, there was a Chinese Tea and Book Fair in support of the youth going to China. The youth group answered questions about their upcoming China trip. In addition, congregation members donated hundreds of books that we sold, with the proceeds going toward their trip.
- This past fall, library Sunday volunteer, Tiffanie Stasiak, organized a special day in the library for the Sunday School children. We hope to repeat this event a few times in 2009.
- Karen Spies, author and member of Augustana, presented her book, *Family Activities for the Christmas Season*, to grandparents and parents of our Sunday School. Karen generously donated her books to all those who wanted one. In turn, the recipients donated money to be given to the Augustana youth.

The Library Committee continued to inventory and review books to order. Through orders and generous members, we have added 150 books to our shelves. Come see the list of 2008 books...and browse for a book just for you. We have received monetary donations from several individuals which will enable us to make some future improvements in the library. We are thankful for your support.

**2008 and 2009 Committee Members:** Linda Crow (Chairperson), Eldon Hemmingsen, Arvetta Hjemstad, Babs Quist, Beth Schutt

**Linda Crow, Chair**

## Social Ministry Committee

The Augustana Lutheran Social Ministry team reaches from Augustana Lutheran Church into our larger community. The Social Ministry Committee manages the distribution of funds to local and state organizations that provide services to citizens of need in our community. During the last year, Augustana provided funding to the following organizations:

### Mission Partners

- Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
- Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Denver
- Lutheran Family Services of Colorado

### Basic Human Needs

- The Delores Project
- Four Mile Family Resource Center
- MDS Counseling Center
- Metro CareRing
- New Beginnings Church\*
- Safehouse Denver
- Turnabout Program\*
- Urban Peak
- Urban Servant Corps
- Work Options for Women

The organizations above provide many quality services to people in need in our community. As many of you know, these organizations provide services including housing homeless families, providing shelter to battered women, providing food, clothing, counseling and psychological support for people in need, as well as providing low-cost interns to work at not-for-profit organizations throughout the community. The people of Augustana are well-

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*\*addition for this year*

respected for their generosity in the non-profit community, and we make a real difference in our community.

The people at Augustana are also personally involved in many community organizations through our



Participants in Work Options for Women

donation of materials and labor. Augustana Lutheran Church donated 7,000 pounds of food to Metro CareRing in 2008 as well as three members who regularly volunteer on a weekly basis. We provide five to twelve volunteers each month to the Denver Rescue Mission to prepare and serve meals to the needy as well as donating 2,670 lbs of clothing to the Denver Rescue Mission. Augustana also donated hundreds of hours of labor to

### Habitat for Humanity

During the last year, the people of Augustana were actively involved in a number of other activities. We provided Christmas presents to many people in need through Lutheran Family Services, as well as food baskets for Thanksgiving and Easter baskets for 93 families living at Warren Village.

During the last year, people and groups at Augustana also provided direct help to people in need in Glendale Southeast Denver, through the donation of backpacks and school supplies and warm children's clothing for immigrant and refugee children living in the area.

The Social Ministry Committee would like to invite you to join us. This is a great opportunity to help the project that is near and dear to you. Please contact the Jerry Sanders if you have any questions.

Augustana makes a real difference both through our funding and personal involvement!

**Jerry Sanders, Chair**

## Congregation Council

The main thrusts of the year 2008 were directed in the area of the Strategic Planning Committee. The process of Natural Church Development was chosen. Pastor Dave Daubert was selected to lead the group through this process for the next two years with a possible renewal for additional time and evaluation. This process started with a Saturday meeting to help determine the strengths and goals of our congregation. The committee is now in the process of evaluating that information and setting up congregational involvement to improve areas that need attention to achieve the mission of Augustana.

The maintenance of our structure required attention with the congregation approving the expenditure of \$375,000 to repair large sections of the roof and refurbishing of the Anna Paulson Room. These have both been completed, and fund-raising for these projects is on-going.

In February, the council held a retreat to discuss and prioritize significant projects for the year. Priority 1 included committee review, strategic plan, and flag placement resolution. Priority 2 included fund-raising for capital projects and completing budgeting process earlier in the year. Priority 3 included strategic planning initiative, directives for budget, directives for management and facilities maintenance, and capital budget. Priority 4 included updating continuing resolutions, outreach plans, and maximizing benefit of the foundation to accomplish ministry. During the year many of these were successfully completed, and others continue to be on-going. Leasing of the lower parking lot to the Leetsdale retail space for their employees was entertained and is in the process of resolving.

The council thanked Nancy Vikman, Marilyn Stember, Emmett Cruson, Lynette Kistler, and Howard Jacobsen for their service on the council. During the year, Mark Ninke resigned from council and treasurer because of employment relocation. Howard Jacobsen graciously filled that position and mentored Tim Tribbett to take over as treasurer for 2009. New council members were elected and included Michael Graham, Arvetta Hjelmstad, Kay

Hytjan, Sandy Kistler, re-elected Joy Hawkins, Michel Parks youth representative and Rebecca Newman as alternate youth representative.

**Karen Morgenthaler and Norman Aarestad**

## Stewardship Committee

The focal activity of this committee in 2008 was the planning and implementation of Consecration Sunday which was celebrated on October 12. A very talented and committed group of people constituted the team which fulfilled the responsibilities of the effort. They are: Jack and Gail Bartels, Rick and Gayle Bebee, Greg and Lisa Bickle, Debbie and Rex Carter, Eric Clambey and Linda van Dyk, Donald and Lianne Hass, Sarah Jacobsen, Greg and Joanne Johnson, Bert and Dolly Lager, Kay Landers, Ken and Cindy Maxwell, David and Judy Peters, Guy and Margaret Peterson, Don and Joyce Thompson, Les and Marianne Woodward, and Kathy Edstrom.

On Celebration Sunday, October 12, the people of Augustana responded with 227 Estimate of Giving cards returned indicating an anticipated increase of income for 2009 of 4.42%. By the end of the year, 305 Estimate of Giving cards had been submitted by members and friends of Augustana indicating an anticipated increase of income for 2009 of 7.43%. Thanks be to God for the faith, devotion, love, and generosity expressed by the people of this congregation and for the witness proclaimed by the above results in an economic time that challenges all of us to clarify our priorities and values. The good people of Augustana spoke loudly and clearly that the ministry of the Gospel is very important in their lives.

Indeed, our experience echoes the words of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

**Pastor John W. Bengston, Chair  
Consecration Sunday Task Force**

## Music Ministry

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name,  
O Most High (Psalm 92:1).

### Highlights of 2008

#### January

- Hiring our new mezzo-soprano in AVE, Nicole Vogel—beautiful voice
- Augustana Ringers retreat—what a fun time!
- Playing organ for the ELCA opening worship service in Colorado Springs

#### February

- The Nordic Choir from Luther College and the Vienna Boys Choir sing at Augustana —wow!
- A Chancel Choir retreat at St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral—inspirational!
- Augustana Ringers play at the Southern Colorado Handbell Festival—incredible learning experience

#### March

- Holy Week services with Chancel and Chamber choirs collaborating with Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra on Good Friday worshiping through the music of Cesar Franck’s *Seven Last Words of Christ*—poignant
- Easter services with brass, organ, handbells, and all choirs—revitalizing

#### April

- I perform as part of Augustana Arts series with Kantorei and the Denver Brass—fun!
- Chamber Choir spring concert—stunning!

#### May

- Y Hope presents *Godspell*—absolutely amazing presentation and a great faith experience for our youth! Proceeds went toward the youth China trip. (My personal favorite on this list!)
- Chancel and Chamber Choir concert with Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra presenting Rene Clausen’s *A New Creation*—beautiful

#### June/July/August

- Planning for the 2008–09 year—always a big

project!

- Hiring our new tenor in AVE, Bruce Johnson —so musically thoughtful
- Participation of a record number of volunteer musicians enhancing our summer worship for preludes, offertory, communion, postludes —what gifts!
- The restringing of the sanctuary Steinway grand piano and a bit of cosmetic touch-up —set to serve for another 10 years!



#### September

- All choirs start up again after a summer break —an exciting time with new faces
- Creation of our newest choir, “Littlest Angels” for preschoolers—what a great idea!
- Church staff retreat in Castle Rock—a great time for bonding and rejuvenation

#### October

- Chancel Choir retreat in Evergreen—work begins for Christmas music and relaxation
- Reformation Sunday with brass, organ, and handbells—celebrative

#### November

- Chamber Choir concert featuring a Bach cantata
- All Saints/Confirmation Sunday with reprise of Rene Clausen’s *A New Creation* interspersed throughout the service—a most meaningful morning

## December

- Annual Christmas concert with Chancel and Chamber choir and orchestra presenting the entire Handel's *Messiah!*—Hallelujah!
- Three Christmas Eve Worship services and one Christmas Day service—joyful

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs (Psalm 100:1–3).**

The above are simply highlights, but it remains that the most important work of music ministry at Augustana is that of worship. It is there that our mission begins. (Guided by the Holy Spirit we Gather in Christian community...) Music in worship is the means of expression by which you feel inspired to give thanks and praise, by which you are motivated to go out in the world and share your love of Christ (...Reach out and invite, Offer hope and healing in Jesus Christ and Walk humbly with God).

This musical leadership in worship is led and executed so faithfully and gracefully by many paid and volunteer music staff. They are an extremely talented and reliable music staff with whom I am privileged to work: Dick Larson (Chancel and Chamber Choir), Arvid Brekke (Senior Elite), LeEtta Choi (Littlest Angels, Choristers, Y Hope), Marcia Olson (Cherubs), Sharon Schillereff, Robert Ellis, Tanya Weir, Kari Kusek, and Melanie Backes (Accompanists), John Richardson (Family Orchestra director), Meg Morrison, Nicole Vogel, Bruce Johnson, and Chris Maunu (AVE), and members of the Worship Committee.

We are certainly blessed at Augustana Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado. I pray that all who enter these doors experience the power of the Holy Spirit through the words and music that pervade this space.

**Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world (Psalm 19:4).**

Praise be to God!

**Cindy Lindeen-Martin  
Minister of Music and Organist**

## Staff

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## Youth and Family Ministry

Here we are at the beginning of another year of ministry at Augustana, a good time to stop and take a look at all the events of the past year. 2008 was a year full of fun, learning, serving, and reaching out to others in youth, family and children's educational ministries.

### Christian Education

In education, the changes we made to Sunday School in 2007 seemed to work well, and we continue that model. The children spend four weeks studying each Bible story. Two weeks are spent in their classroom with their teachers, and once each month they rotate to Arts and Crafts and Movies. Children completed their units on the parables and are currently studying the stories of Jesus' miracles.

Beth Black, Marcia Olson, and LeEtta Choi, along with the Sunday School teachers, worked tirelessly this past Christmas season in bringing "Simply Christmas" back to Augustana. I think everyone—children, parents, and the congregation—appreciated the shift back to this Augustana tradition.

Late June brought "A Rainforest Adventure" to Augustana. Our VBS program was well attended by children from our Early Learning Center as well as children and grandchildren from our congregational families. Great volunteers as well as involving WELCA with the snacks for the week help VBS to be a true intergenerational event.

Confirmation ministry continues to be strong. Although we only had two 9th grade students confirmed in 2008, our class has swelled to 30 students in three grades. We still use Faith Inkubators as a curriculum for these students, combining a multi-media presentation with both large and small group discussions. Many thanks to our small group leaders involved this past year, Lisa Boe-Sims, Debbie Carter,

John Harwell, Carrie Olson, and Darlene Stone for their dedication to these students. We continue to stress service to others as a way of building faith. Rainbow Trail is also an important part of the Confirmation program, and I encourage every youth to take part in this invaluable experience at least once during their three-year program. Pastors Pederson and

Bengston continue to work with the 9th grade students during the first few weeks of the educational year. They spend time with these young adults helping them to define what their faith means, and how that faith can influence their lives during the formative years ahead.

Our high school students meet during the education hour for Breakfast Club where various young adults in the congregation meet with them for discussion and doughnuts. This year we had four high school seniors choose to attend Lutheran Colleges. Many thanks go to the Augustana Foundation for providing grants to these students. These students, Tyler Aronstein, Lauren Bickle, Lynette Kistler, and Hannah Peay bring the current total number of Augustana students at Lutheran colleges to seven.



Young lady works on a craft project at Vacation Bible School.

### Youth and Family Ministry

Youth and Family Ministry has also had a year full of fun and adventure. Sandy Tighe continues to help with our SPLASH program sending our monthly newsletters to families with young children offering them ideas on how to build faith in even our youngest members. Currently we have close to 40 families receiving SPLASH packets. Kid Connection provides much needed mom time and Christian fellowship to those with pre-school age children. As our culture changes and we see more and more fathers home with their children, we plan this year to make this group more inviting to all those involved in full-time parenting.

Both our middle and high school students enjoyed the Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Gatherings in 2008. In February, our middle school students enjoy a weekend in Colorado Springs serving the community, diving into God's word, and having a good time with close to 1,000 other middle school students from the Rocky Mountain Region. High schoolers spend a weekend in November in Estes Park. The focus of the high school gathering is on connecting with each other and with God. This gathering offers a service of healing which is usually very moving for many students. This year, each student as they entered the worship service, wrote in colored chalk on a brick their biggest fear. As more and more people entered, an altar in the shape of the cross was built with "their fears." The service continued as we all gave our fears to God. The next morning, communion was celebrated using the cross they had built as the table. After communing, we were all given a brick, someone else's brick, and asked to keep in our prayers that other person and their fear. I'll bet if you ask any of those that attended about their brick, they will tell you where it is, and what is written on it. It was a great weekend for both age groups as, in different ways we all learned to "Fear Not."

Our high school trip to China, of course was a highlight of our year. After much fundraising, and overwhelming generosity from the people of Augustana, 13 youth and four adults spent two weeks in China, meeting many wonderful people, serving, and spreading God's love through words and actions. Although many of the Chinese students were of other faith traditions, our students respected and wanted to learn

more about their beliefs. I could not have been more proud of this group of kids. They were truly examples of what Christianity looks like, lived out in young people. Their kindness, openness with the Chinese students, acceptance of students in other groups and work ethics demonstrated what the love of our congregation has produced.

This year, our high school students, and those who will be entering high school this fall, will be attending the ELCA National Gathering in New Orleans. There are currently close to 37,000 participating in this event with another 3,000 volunteers expected. We will all be given the opportunity to serve the people still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. It truly amazes me that so many young people are so enthusiastic about serving others.

### **Gratitude**

Personally, I am so thankful for the chance to get to know all of these amazing young people and to get to be a part of their lives. I'm also thankful to the people of Augustana for trusting me with these faith-forming ministries. My focus for the coming year is to put together a Children's Youth and Family Leadership Team so that others can help to build Augustana's household ministries to serve not only those who

currently worship with us, but also those who we can reach out to and invite to worship with us.

**Beth Peay,**  
Evangelist Specializing in  
Youth and Family Ministry



Augustana Youth on the steps of the old Lutheran Mission Church outside of Xinyang.

## Property Committee

The Property Committee seeks to oversee the building complex and grounds maintenance to provide a safe and well-kept facility where people may gather in Christian community.

The members of this committee are: Orvid Olson, Leigh Quist, Dick Kah, John Flory, Nancy Cowee, Bernie Smith, Asmir Hodzic, Ron Stember, Les Woodward, Ron Stember, and Palmer Attleson.

The committee meets regularly on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. or as needed due to extenuating circumstances.

### Some projects that were resolved in 2008:

- Installed a safety fence on the east side of Quist Park;
- Trimmed some trees in Quist Park;
- Solicited volunteers to help clean and trim up the grounds in spring and fall;
- Replaced the flat roofs on the Sanctuary, education building, and office building;
- Repaired the fence in the Augustana Early Learning Center;
- Repaired some masonry in the columbarium and walkway;
- Developed and activated new guidelines for use of church vans;
- Upgraded some of the Sanctuary sound system;
- Repaired and redesigned the Anna Paulson Room with thanks to Tri-R Club and others for financing.
- And the committee attempts to do a monthly safety inspection of the church buildings and grounds by assigning a committee member with Asmir.

### Projects for 2009:

- Outdoor parking lot step lighting;
- Bell tower repairs;
- Bulletin board upgrade;
- Repair rail fencing on west end of lower parking lot;

- Repair/replace parking blocks in lower parking lot;
- Replace or trim old trees;
- Renovate administrative wing;
- Repair/replace damaged masonry in walkways/steps.

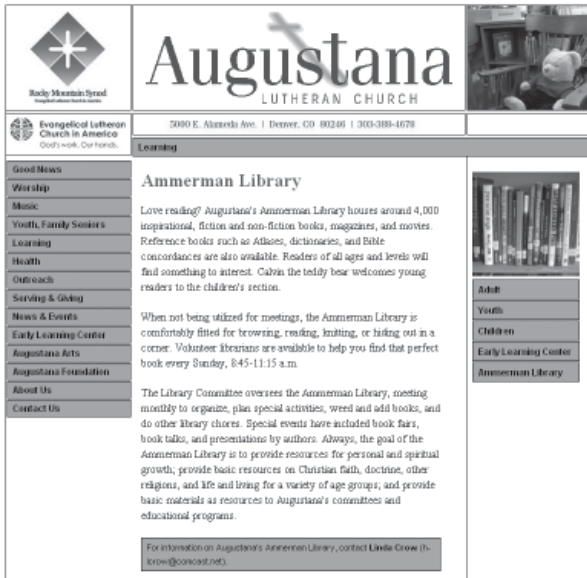


The Property Committee remembers with thanksgiving Bob DeBell's knowledge and leadership in the committee. He will be greatly missed.

Palmer Attleson

## Publications Administrator

- In January, I attended Digital Photography I, a continuing education opportunity offered through the Denver Darkroom.
- After researching options for upgrading and maintaining Augustana's current Web site, we decided to create a whole new Web site in-house. Toward that end, Mary Ann Shippey took over membership maintenance so that I could devote time to web design; Dreamweaver software was purchased; and I attended Dreamweaver Boot Camp for five days in the summer. Learning the software has been a huge learning curve —both frustrating and rewarding. Watch for Augustana's new Web site to launch around the middle of 2009.
- In February, Augustana starting using Constant Contact to send out the weekly e-mail, the Augustana e-Pistle. Currently, the e-Pistle has 201 subscribers. If you would like to receive the weekly e-mail, indicate your interest on the worship registration slip along with your e-mail



A peek at a page from Augustana's new Web site.

address legibly written, or send an e-mail request to [goodrum@augustanadenver.org](mailto:goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

- Under “Events” on Augustana’s Web site, [www.augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org), there’s a page with guidelines on submitting articles for Augustana’s publications along with deadlines for *The Tower* newsletter. Information for the Sunday bulletin is always due the Tuesday before the intended Sunday. Augustana e-Pistle copy generally comes from articles submitted for the bulletin and newsletter.
- Questions, comments, criticisms, and corrections about Augustana’s publications are welcome and appreciated when you are open about your identity. As is the policy of the congregation, anonymous communications will be disregarded.

February 1, 2009 marks the start of my 18th year at Augustana. I thank God for the opportunity to serve God’s good will and purpose for Augustana alongside the people of this congregation. Heartfelt thanks to all who contribute articles, meet deadlines, and help assemble and mail Augustana’s publications. (I have the best job here.)

Lyn Goodrum

## Senior Elite Choir

The Senior Elite Choir continues to “reach” out to Seniors in fellowship and provides an opportunity to offer their talents in song. The choir sings one Sunday each month at 10:30 a.m. worship. Rehearsals are on Friday mornings, followed by “Coffee Hour.” There are 48 members, and if the dates given us are verifiable, the average age is between 79–82.

New members are always welcome.

Arvid B. Brekke, Conductor

Tanya Weir, Accompanist

Carlos Beer, Treasurer

Arvid B. Brekke, Conductor

## Tri-R

The Tri-R Club has been filled with many activities in 2008. Those which stand out are the initial steps toward remodeling the Anna Paulson Room; the annual Scandinavian Bake Sale held the first Saturday of December (Ah! the tasty Korv and wonderful Swedish Tea Rings, cardamom and limpa breads!). We also prepared the Easter lily arrangements for the Sanctuary and then delivered them to Augustana’s home-centered members. We financially supported the three camping facilities operated by our Lutheran churches.

In the past year, Joyce Oleson, Dick Kah, Joni Hopkins, Palmer Attleson, and Raedine Smith served as officers.

In 2009, Tri-R will be led by Palmer Attleson, Emmett Cruson, Irene Jones, Dick Kah, Joni Hopkins, Jess and Stella Miller, Lee Reinhart, Ann Schumacher, and Jerry and Bev Strong.

Raedine Smith

# AUGUSTANA Arts.ORG

Mission: "to gather community, support the arts and delight the spirit."

Highlights of 2008 included:

- Sold-out performance of the **Vienna Boys Choir** in February 2008
- 30% increase in the total number of annual donors
- Establishment of an endowment fund and planned giving program
- Expansion of **City Strings** program serving low-income youth
- Two Ovation award nominations for the production of *Titanic: The Musical*

## Financial Statement (06/01/07-05/31/08):

### Contributed Income

Corporate	\$ 4,825
Foundation	33,500
Government (SCFD)	30,191
Individual	28,132

### Earned Income

Tuition	92,779
Ticket Sales	33,095
Contracts/Memberships	4,296
Special Events, interest and other	13,929

**Total Income \$240,747**

### Expenses

Administration	34,138
Payroll	149,171
Performance	52,825
Outreach	4,384

**Total Expense \$240,518**

**Board of Directors:** Wes Munsil, President; Greg Bickle, Vice President; Howard Jacobsen, Treasurer; John Richardson, Secretary; Todd Breyfogle, Karen Fitzpatrick, Paul Gilbertson, Cindy Lindeen-Martin

**Staff:** Karen Aarestad, Executive Director; Charlotte Adams, Director of Women's Chorale; Alfred Born,

Education Director; Catherine Sailer, Orchestra Conductor; Robyn Sosa, City Strings Manager; Michelle Winzent, Administrator; Jared Wise, Production Manager

## Evangelism

Every Sunday we have many visitors in our midst. We become aware of them by introducing ourselves or by their choosing to supply us with information on the bulletin slips. Our greeters offer warm welcomes to those who enter our doors for worship.

In the spring, fall, and late winter, we offer a six-week new members class. The pastors, lay staff, and lay leadership introduce the attendees to life at Augustana, Lutheran theology, and Christian tenets. Always we hope that we can easily absorb our newest members into significant ministry here at Augustana and in the adjacent community.

We keep surrounding neighborhoods and communities informed of many of our ongoing activities. We advertise in the monthly local newspapers about the 9Health Fair, the Blessing of the Animals, our July 4th celebration, Augustana Arts' programs, and Vacation Bible School. In the fall, our members at Stapleton hosted a picnic for their friends and neighbors interested in learning more about Augustana. Through the Augustana Early Learning Center newsletter, we alert those parents to programs and activities for their families.

People are hungering for spiritual connection and an inclusive community. We welcome the opportunity to bring the stranger, newlywed, widower, new resident, unemployed, young family, immigrant, and many others into our dynamic community.

**Malise de Bree,**  
Evangelist Specializing in Senior Ministry

	Programs	Events	Money from Denver Chapter	\$1,600 for Augustana projects
Jan. 27	Planning			
Feb.		Feb. 3 – Souper Bowl of Caring, sponsored by youth, raised \$561	\$281	
Mar. 16	Planned Giving Techniques: Bickle and Dorr			
Apr.		Apr. 26 – Warren Village SHARE baskets, collected \$2,843	\$1,050	
June		June 30 – “Flamingo Fundraiser,” collected \$670		\$650
		Lynette Kistler – Girl Scout project for China schools	\$120	
Aug. 3	New Beginnings Church – Jeanette Medina	Aug. 10 Faith Day at the Rockies – free tickets for baseball game		
Sept. 28	Youth trip to China – Beth Peay and youth	Sept. 14 – display table at “Discover Augustana!” Sunday		\$950
		Sept. 28 – “Raise the Roof” coffee hour fundraiser, collected \$114,551		
Oct.		Oct. 16 – Augustana Early Learning Center Fall Festival, \$2,987 net	\$1,494	
		Oct. 28 – Confirmation dinner: two confirmands received crosses	Donated by Thrivent	
		Lutheran Men of Greater Denver collected \$600+; Tri-R gave \$600 for three Lutheran camps in Colorado	\$600	
Nov. 23	Member Benefits	Nov. 15 – Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Warming Ways for Winter, collected \$3,200	\$1,600	
		Nov. 22 – Warren Village SHARE baskets, collected \$2,164	\$1,054	
		Nov. 23 – Denver County Chapter election for Leadership Board; Thrivent display Sunday morning		
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$6,199</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans donated \$45,000 to Augustana for the GROW program in 2008. This was ½ of the \$90,000 donated over a two-year period to assist in a program (GROW) designed by an Augustana committee to encourage planned giving, both current and long-term, to Augustana Lutheran Church, Augustana Foundation, and Augustana Arts.

## Augustana Early Learning Center



As an outreach ministry of Augustana Lutheran Church, the Early Learning Center gathers families into our Christian community. Many of our families are not church members, but our Board has elected to welcome children of all races, ethnicities and religions.

We make these families aware of Augustana's other ministries and hope they may join the larger church community.

Our center's mission is to provide high quality care and nurture the development of each child. We also try to keep our tuition rates reasonable and provide grant assistance to low income families. This mission, under the church's umbrella, is especially appropriate in our city and country at this moment in history.

What have we been doing in 2008? Dramatically improving the quality of our services and helping families to afford them!

**Quality Improvement:** We are involved in a year-long self study to renew our NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation. NAEYC is the "gold standard" for early childhood education. They have recently upgraded their standards, so this process is very demanding. Both our administrator and teachers must compile extensive portfolios of documentation in all areas of practice. Parent and staff surveys are also included. We will receive a site visit in the spring when, hopefully, we will receive NAEYC's blessing for another five years.

### Tuition Assistance and More Quality

**Improvement:** Last year we became members of the new Denver Preschool Program (DPP). This program was created by a ballot initiative several years ago which designated taxpayer money to early childhood education. Participating preschools must have either NAEYC accreditation or a Qualistar rating (a state rating system). DPP provides tuition assistance to every Denver family with a four-year-old child who will be entering kindergarten the following year. This is not just for low income families, although there is a sliding scale which gives more assistance as the income becomes lower. In addition, DPP provides our center with about \$9,000 each year for teacher education and material upgrades. They will also pay our NAEYC accreditation fees which are approximately \$2,000. So this program provides massive assistance to both our staff and our families and puts Denver at the forefront nationwide in improving early childhood education.

So 2008 has been a challenging but rewarding year. Our current initiatives certainly keep our minds focused on both our mission and that of our church community.

**2008 AELC Board of Directors:** President, Nancy Dierker; Treasurer, Deb Waltz; Secretary, David Emrich

**2009 AELC Board of Directors:** President, Jon Genovese; Treasurer, Kari Blanchard; Secretary, David Emrich

Paula Keller,  
AELC Center Administrator



Women of the ELCA is the women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a partner in the total ministry of the church, the organization affirms, supports, and challenges women in their daily ministries at home and in the world.

**Mission Statement:** To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Augustana Women of the ELCA meet monthly for Bible study, Christian service, outreach, and fellowship.

### **Christian Service has included:**

- SHARE Baskets for Warren Village
- Gathering Place
- Dolores Project
- ELCA Women in Prison Project
- Metro CareRing
- Assist in funeral receptions
- Furnish meals to homeless families through Interfaith Hospitality Network.
- Provide cards, holiday baskets, gifts, and meals to home-centered and circle members.
- Sewing machine project for the Mashia Project in Nigeria
- A five month project for Four Mile Resource Center
- Bandage Rolling for Global Health Ministries

### **There are six Circles at Augustana:**

- **Deborah** meets September–June the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. Contact person: Arvetta Hjelmstad (303-753-0821)
- **Mary** meets September–May the second Monday at 1 p.m., in the Anna Paulson Room. Contact person: Raedine Smith (303-973-2791)
- **Miriam** meets April, May, September, October, November, December, first Monday at 1:30 p.m. in homes or the Anna Paulson Room. Contact person: Evelyn Brewster (303-343-3464)
- **Phoebe** meets September–May, the first Thursday at noon in homes. Contact person: Carol Parker (303-355-3316)
- **Rachel** meets September–May the fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. Contact person: Cindy Brogren (303-399-3853)
- **Sarah** meets September–May the second Thursday, 9:30 a.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. Contact person: Nancy Cowee (303-695-9138).

Arvetta Hjelmstad

## **Senior Ministry**

Senior Ministry continues in its commitment to know Christ and to make Christ known to others within the walls of Augustana and out in the community. Malise de Bree hosts a Thursday morning Bible study which has finally ended a 2½ year study of the Gospel of John. During Lent we discussed Richard Foster's classic, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. For six weeks in the summer, a small group met to share Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*.

From September through June, Senior Ministry hosts luncheons, usually on the third Thursday of each month. Judy Nyquist and her crew delight us with a delicious, filling lunch before our programs occur. In 2008 we enjoyed more country gospel music, the Valentines and singing offered by the children in the Early Learning Center, a Burma Shave program, more serenading by Wes Munsil, sabbatical reminiscing by Pastor John Pederson, and lovely Christmas carols sung by the Senior Elite Choir. We also were challenged by a depiction of women in the Bible and by Pastor Emily Cardin informing us of her New Beginnings ministry at the Denver Women's Jail. In the summer we hosted a barbecue which was very well attended in the newly remodeled Anna Paulson Room.

As is our custom, Senior Ministry Committee gave a gift from its Designated Fund to Pastor Cardin's new Beginning Ministry. Some seniors also decided to attend a worship service at the Denver Women's Jail.

Our field trips were varied as usual. We attended more concerts sponsored by the Colorado Symphony, the Titanic musical at the Lakewood Cultural Center, as well as outings to a llama farm and to IMAX and a dinosaur exhibition. Twenty of us went to our annual Rainbow Trail September retreat. Pastor Paul Gilbertson led us in a dynamic discussion about the Palestinian-Israeli situation. We learned a lot about the struggling Palestinian (Lutheran) Christians, who give daily witness to their faith.

None of these programs and activities could occur without the faithful dedication of the Senior Ministry Committee, which meets monthly to discuss and plan. **Members include:** Vivian Bengtson (Chairperson),

Palmer Attleson, Dwight and Carole Berson, John Cowee, Dean Ducnuigeen, Dallas Jensen, Bea Jerke, Evelyn Johnson, Irene Jones, Dick Kah, Harriet Anne Post, and Linda Tinderholt.

Malise de Bree,  
Evangelist Specializing in Senior Ministry

## Summary of Financial Statements for 2008

	General Fund	Temp. Restricted	Augustana Min.
Balance, January 1, 2008	\$ 65,693.51	\$ 0.	\$ 357,689.52
Receipts during 2008	945,989.24		(85,750.55)
Disbursements during 2008	(945,442.79)		
Net Change	546.45		(85,750.55)
<b>Balance, December 31, 2008</b>	<b>\$ 66,239.96</b>	<b>\$ 0.</b>	<b>\$ 271,938.97</b>

	Property Fund	Dedicated Funds	Augustana Foundation
Balance, January 1, 2008	\$ 1,421,724.41	\$ 273,683.74	\$ 2,362,528.93
Receipts during 2008	241,268.27	555,945.81	(451,488.75)
Disbursements during 2008	0.	(736,602.31)	(100,190.89)
Net Change	241,268.27	(180,656.50)	(551,679.64)
<b>Balance, December 31, 2008</b>	<b>\$ 1,662,992.68</b>	<b>\$ 93,027.24</b>	<b>1,810,849.29</b>

	Early Learning Center	Altar Guild	Senior Elite Choir
Balance, January 1, 2008	\$ 80,014.15	\$ 1,020.37	\$ 344.60
Receipts during 2008	698,144.80	83.00	2,380.00
Disbursements during 2008	(666,599.03)	(68.00)	(1,132.94)
Net Change	31,545.77	15.00	1,247.06
<b>Balance, December 31, 2008</b>	<b>\$ 111,559.92</b>	<b>\$ 1,035.37</b>	<b>\$1,591.66</b>

	Tri-R	Women of the ELCA
Balance, January 1, 2008	\$ 21,332.90	\$ 2,335.61
Receipts during 2008	8,592.74	1,985.30
Disbursements during 2008	(16,943.80)	(1,876.63)
Net Change	(8,351.06)	108.67
<b>Balance, December 31, 2008</b>	<b>\$ 12,981.84</b>	<b>\$ 2,444.28</b>

**NOTE:** The figures contained in this report have not been audited by the Audit Committee at the time of submission.