



Advent and Christmas at Augustana

Turn to page 3 for a comprehensive catalog of seasonal adventures, feasts, concerts, and opportunities for giving and worship during Advent and Christmas!

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Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Thursday, December 5, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the January edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Sunday Schedule

- 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 9 a.m. Faith Formation (September–May)

Chapel Prayer

- Monday, 10 a.m., Christ Chapel

Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Congregation Council

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LeEtta Choi, Silver Notes Director
Angela Howard, Choristers and
Cantabile Director
Asmir Hodzic,
Building and Grounds Manager
Andrija Malbasa, **Steven Rojas**,
Custodians
Ellen Kastens, **Amy Tamminga**,
Erin Saboe Willoughby, Wedding
Coordinators
Wendie Edwards, Director, Augustana
Early Learning Center

Rejoice with:

- Parents Anders Engdahl and Staci Steinberger and grandparents Todd Engdahl and Caroline Schomp in the birth of Soren Bernard Schomp Engdahl, November 10
- Parents Kisanet and Henok, and sister FiFi Yohannes in the birth of Matthias Henok Yohannes, November 1
- Rylin Hawke Fisher, daughter of Joe and Kristine Fisher, in her baptism
- Parents Nathan and Laura Glusenkamp and grandparents Ron and Sue Ann Glusenkamp in the birth of Grace Anne Glusenkamp, October 10
- Sean and Caroline Kommerstad in their marriage, October 12

Recently lifted up in prayer

For hope and healing:

- Venus Conklin, Bobby Edwards, Aaron Friedrichs, Dr. Ernest Gilbertson, Cynthia Heiser, Bert Lager, Kirsten Lamphere, Clyde Lindsay, Merlin Nimrod, Peggy O'Connell, Joyce Oleson, Betsy Rahe, Rita Rosemary, Isaac, Fred Scott, Will Tuttle, Beth Walker

For comfort and courage:

- Family and friends of Dilworth Blatchford in his death
- Karen Spies in the death of her mother, Aina Bornemann
- Wendie Edwards in the death of her father-in-law, Ross Daniels
- Ron and Sue Ann Glusenkamp in the death of their friend Katie Dragseth
- Angela Howard in death of her grandfather, Herb Hennagir
- Shirley Cuniff in the death of her sister-in-law, Lois Kennedy
- Family and friends of Gabriele Korndorfer in her death
- Family and friends of Guy Peterson in his death
- Sandy Heitzman in the death of her brother, Arthur Rosemary
- Dianne Nelson in the death of her niece, Derri Scarlet
- Family and friends of Anna Schumacher in her death
- Family and friends of Bev Strong in her death

Thank you for the gifts!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- In memory of Norm Olson

Special Gifts

- In honor of Genevieve Bucklin's 90th birthday, Rylin Hawke Fisher's baptism, Lucas Faires's baptism
- In memory of Dilworth Blatchford

Thanks, Augustana!

Dear Prayer Shawl Committee,
Norman thanks all of you for the prayer shawl. What we will remember when we look back are the times when kindness made a difference in our lives. Thank you for caring. Norman did not get back to the house to mail his thanks. I, his brother, Russell Olson, do that for him.

The Family of Norman Olson

Advent and Christmas at Augustana

Join Candlelighters rehearsals beginning soon!

Christmas Eve worship at 5 p.m. will include the Candlelighter procession and anthems. Open to middle school and high school students, the majority of Candlelighters are made up of the Cantabile choir. If you would like to join the choir as a Candlelighter, please join rehearsals on Sundays, 1–1:45 p.m., beginning on November 24, and the dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 21, 10 a.m.–noon, followed by pizza.

To participate, contact **Angela Howard** (anghoward@gmail.com) or **Cindy Lindeen-Martin** (lindeen-martin@augustanadenver.org).



61 farms and counting!

Let's buy the farms again this Advent!

Over the past five years you, Augustana's faithful, have helped the hungry of this world during Advent by contributing money toward the purchase of 61 farms through the ELCA Good Gifts program! This does not include the 17 additional farms purchased through matching funds last year.

As part of our Advent journey toward the birth in a stable among cattle and sheep of the One whose grace sustains and nourishes us daily, Augustana's CAN Ministry is again asking Augustana members to support the ELCA Good Gifts ministry. Buying a farm is like helping a family to have "forever food," because a "farm" includes animals, farm implements, and the educational support needed to ensure success. All of this still for only \$715 per farm!

Our collection will begin on December 1 and end on Christmas Eve. Make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church, but write FARM in the memo line. Children will again receive barn coin banks so they can participate.

Let's make Christmas an especially joyous event for those who will receive a fresh start in life!

AUGUSTANA *Arts*

Sponsored Ensemble series

Augustana Arts is pleased to sponsor the **Skyline Chorus** on Monday, December 2 at 7 p.m., at Augustana for their holiday concert "Sounds of the Season." Tickets may be purchased at www.soundsofseason2.eventbrite.com.

Augustana Arts is also pleased to sponsor the **Colorado Choir** on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., at Augustana for their annual holiday concert "Christmas with the Colorado Choir." Tickets are available at <https://www.coloradochoir.org/store/>.

Christmas Caroling

People of all ages and singing abilities are invited to share Christmas joy to our home-centered members and friends. We will meet in the Anna Paulson Room Saturday, December 7, at 10 a.m. RSVP to **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by Friday, December 6, as we will have pizza afterwards at noon. Sponsored by Senior Ministry and Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

AUGUSTANA *Arts*

Colorado Women's and Men's Chorales join with the Colorado Saints Chorale to present



Saturday, December 7, 2:30 p.m. at Augustana

It's the time of year for cookies, cocoa, and the best holiday deal for families! Joined again by Kent Jones and the Colorado Saints Chorale, this is one of our most fantastic shows of the year for a bargain price. The annual Holiday Family Sing-Along includes a beautiful choral concert followed by a holiday festival that includes games, cookie decorating, and photos with Santa himself. The music includes stunning choral classics, like Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," as well as caroling favorites. Expect lots of audience participation! Fun for the whole family.

For tickets, visit www.augustanaarts.org, and use code ALC50 for 50 percent off tickets for all church members.

Advent Adventure is Sunday, December 8!

This year's Advent Adventure kicks off with Sunday Lunch, featuring a taco bar, fruit, and dessert. Then enjoy activities in Fellowship Hall, noon–3 p.m., including opportunities to make a nativity set, ornaments for your tree, and more. Help with a congregational craft that will be displayed during Advent.

There will also be fair trade items available to purchase, lefse to eat, and joy to spread! Plan to join the fun!



Angel Tree

If you would like to give gifts to refugees through Lutheran Family Services, you may help by selecting angel ornaments off the tree in the Fellowship Hall. Gifts must be returned to Augustana no later than Monday, December 9. Please make sure that you keep all gifts UNWRAPPED. You may, however, provide a gift bag or reusable shopping bag. Thank you!

Trailblazers

Thornton WinterFest

Saturday, December 14, leave Augustana's south parking lot at 4 p.m.

Get into the Christmas spirit at the Thornton WinterFest. Here you can listen to music from local choirs, watch ice carving demonstrations, walk through the Wonderland Woods tree displays, go ice skating, or visit one of the many food booths. Santa Claus, carnival games, and a puppet theater will keep the kids entertained.

Guide: **Laurie Scott** (303-358-5864 or laurajscott@msn.com)

Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast

Tuesday, December 24, 10 p.m.

KOA News Radio 850 AM

Augustana Lutheran Church has a long history of broadcasting the gospel on Denver's airwaves. Virtually as long as Denver has had radio stations, Augustana has had a radio ministry of one type or another. Weekly broadcasts of services and sermons began in the 1950s and continued until 1998. The broadcast of Augustana's Christmas Eve service has continued for over 50 consecutive years.

The planned, one-hour broadcast over radio KOA reaches most of the western United States. Each year Augustana receives dozens of reports, acknowledgements, and thank-you notes from members and strangers who hear the broadcast at home and in the car throughout the country.

Again this year, Augustana will air a one-hour, Christmas Eve broadcast at 10 p.m. over radio station KOA. The broadcast and production costs run around \$1,500. In the past, the Augustana Foundation has helped fund this outreach ministry. Recently, the congregation has reached out to support this important ministry, and now is your opportunity to continue to do so. If you'd like to contribute toward this broadcast, please make a check payable to Augustana Lutheran Church and note "KOA Christmas Broadcast." Online donations can be made at www.augustanadenver.org. You can make your gift in honor or memory of a loved one, and the acknowledgement will be included in the Christmas bulletins. Thank you!

Poinsettia gifts celebrate and remember loved ones

This Advent and Christmas season, help provide poinsettias for Augustana's chancel while honoring or remembering special events or loved ones. Use the form to the right to indicate your preferences. Any amount is welcome. Make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church. Gifts received by Sunday, December 22, will be acknowledged in Augustana's Christmas bulletins.



Poinsettias and Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast

(Please print or type.)

Enclosed is my gift of

\$ _____ for the Christmas Eve radio broadcast

\$ _____ for Poinsettias/Christmas Trees

☐ in memory of ☐ in honor of

given by _____

☐ in memory of ☐ in honor of

given by _____

name _____

phone _____



Advent/Christmas Communion Service and Luncheon

For the December Monthly Luncheon, Senior Ministry and Health Ministry cohost Advent/Christmas Communion Service and Luncheon, Thursday, December 12, beginning at 11 a.m. Enjoy a 30-minute, meaningful, midweek, morning worship service in Augustana's sanctuary led by Pastor Ann and Pastor Caitlin, with anthems by Augustana's Silver Notes Choir. Come experience a calm, peaceful, intimate time in Augustana's sanctuary to welcome the Christ Child and celebrate the holidays with your family and friends. Following worship, all are invited to Fellowship Hall for festive carol-singing and a delicious luncheon prepared by Judy Nyquist.

All those attending will be guests of Senior Ministry. Please call Augustana's office (303-388-4678) with your luncheon reservation by Monday, December 9.

St. Lucia Dinner and Procession

Please join the Swedish Club of Denver, Saturday, December 14, for this Celebration of Light as we crown our newest Lucia Queen for 2019. Don't miss it! Doors open at 5:15 p.m. "Glogg" will be followed by a Swedish Christmas pork or vegetarian lasagna dinner.

Go to swedishclubofdenver.org to make dinner reservations. Sanctuary seating will be available for those wishing to only view the Lucia Procession, which begins around 7:15 p.m.

God Jul and Merry Christmas to all!



Sunday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. at Augustana

Join Augustana's Chancel Choir, Augustana Ringers, Cantabile, AVE and Stratus Chamber Orchestra for the ever popular annual Christmas Concert, *Gloria!*

Delight in well-known favorites including unique settings of "Away in a Manger" and "Lo, How A Rose" for choir and soprano saxophone, along with the centerpiece of the concert, "Gloria," a larger work by John Michael Trotta. This year, Augustana Ringers will be ringing two contrasting pieces—an exuberant arrangement of "African Noel," featuring handbells and soprano soloist, and another lovely setting of the Andalusian carol, "Campana Sombre Campana" ("Bells Over Bethlehem"), for handbells and percussion.

The usual carol-sing with the audience will be integrated into this enchanting evening, featuring "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" by New York composer Julian Wachner, and "Festival First Noel" by one of the choir's favorite composers, Dan Forrest.

The concert is free, but tickets are required. Obtain them in advance at www.augustanaarts.org or at the door the night of the concert.



Christmas Cookie Sale

The youth will be selling cookie plates with a variety of holiday treats Sunday,

December 15, in Fellowship Hall. Plates (\$10) will be available between worship services and during Sunday Lunch.



Longest Night: A Service of Healing and Hope

Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m., Christ Chapel

Everyone is invited to gather for a worship opportunity in Christ Chapel on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. During this season that is filled with celebrations and parties, many people have a longing for a quieter time of reflection. As we worship, we'll hear God's promises in scripture, sing familiar hymns, and have the opportunity for prayers of healing. All are welcome; please invite your friends or neighbors to experience this meaningful service.

Please note that this service is offered only in the evening this year. Check out "Advent/Christmas Communion Service and Luncheon" on page 6 for a peaceful, seasonal worship opportunity during the daytime.

New this year:

Holy Communion at all Christmas Eve services!

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord at Augustana with worship Christmas Eve! All three services will include beloved Christmas carols, candlelight, Holy Communion, and music by Augustana's choirs. AVE will sing at 3 p.m. Augustana's Candlelighters will process and sing at 5 p.m. worship, which also includes anthems by Augustana's children's and handbell choirs. At 7:30 p.m. worship, Augustana's Chancel Choir will sing, and candles will be provided to ALL during the singing of "Silent Night"!

Augustana's nursery will be open but not staffed for Christmas Eve worship.

Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Day worship with Holy Communion continues the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord.

Congregation Council



I love the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons! There is so much to be grateful for, the beautiful lights, all the gatherings, and ways to help others in need. I love

the church services beginning with a focus on helping others during Thanksgiving and then feeling grateful for Advent and blessings as we anticipate the birth of Jesus and find other ways to help and give during Christmas! However, the holidays can also be a time of sadness as we remember those who are no longer with us.

In the last four years or so, my family has experienced many young people in their teens and early 20s passing away under very different circumstances—all tragic as they pass before their parents. My mom and my stepfather also passed away in that period of time. My husband and our two boys, now in their 20s, have attended seven to eight funerals, at different types of churches in the past five years (two at Augustana).

The most recent were two funerals in just the last month—close friends of our oldest son. Both of the young men died in a small plane crash, and one was the pilot. By coincidence, both funerals were at the same church, two weeks apart. Different people spoke in each of the funerals except it was the same pastor. Friends and family and fellow service members had beautiful messages to share with everyone there. The pastor's message, however, barely talked about the deceased, instead focusing on his church and his beliefs about sin and salvation and judgment.

I feel blessed that I have grown up in a church that has compassion for all! We are here to serve, to help because it feels good, it is the right thing to do, and we are here to serve "God's work. Our hands." We teach tolerance, and we believe we are providing comfort and care to those in need. I appreciate growing up with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Enjoy the wonderful Lutheran Advent season, the music and messages of the season, and feel the spirit move you in serving, and enjoy the celebration of the birth of Christ!

Lisa Boe-Sims

Congregation President

Women, Wine, and Word

This Bible study for women of all ages will not meet in December. Their next meeting will be Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m. Watch the January Tower and the Sunday bulletin for more information.

Pastors

The human Baby Jesus



What kind of lullaby do you suppose Mary and Joseph sang to baby Jesus? I was thinking about that recently after talking to my daughter, who is expecting her first child at the beginning of January. She was a fussy sleeper herself, and so I

remember many nights of endless lullabies. I wonder, now that she will be a mother, if she will sing those same soothing songs over and over.

We know that little ones love to be cuddled and held and that they recognize their parents' voices even before they are born. So we can imagine that Jesus felt safe and loved in the arms of his parents as they sang quiet melodies in the stable at Bethlehem.

Jesus came into the world in the same way that we all do, fully entering into our human life with all its joys and sorrows. Jesus experienced the messiness, the complexity, and the awe of living just as we do. Sometimes we forget the wonder of that. God loved all of us so much to become one of us so that we would be drawn to God's heart and also be drawn to share love with others.

Jesus embodied and poured out that love in his life and ministry as an adult, of course. But in this Advent/Christmas season we can remind ourselves that he first experienced love as Mary and Joseph held him and sang him to sleep.

May the wonder of Advent and Christmas be yours!

Pastor Ann

Scapegoating and the Gospel of Matthew

One of my favorite theologians is René Girard. Originally an anthropologist and an atheist, he began to study the major world religions for their practices of scapegoating. He specialized on the topic through his study of primates and wanted to see how humans went about it. Late in life, Girard concluded that Christianity was unique among world religions for its vehement rejection of scapegoating and the assertion that the human family was called to move beyond it—“Love thy neighbor as thyself” and all that jazz. As Girard’s argument goes, Jesus was the ultimate and final scapegoat through his self-sacrifice on the cross.

Wouldn’t you know that we find ourselves scapegoating right down to our least favorite books of the Bible? Well, perhaps you don’t. I’ll speak for myself. I scapegoat right down to my least favorite books of the Bible. The Gospel of Matthew falls in about my top three. I find its post-temple destruction intensity a little much. Recently, the Girardian Lectionary website encouraged readers to lean into the books of the Bible in which we struggle. Well, no time like the present for me given that on December 1 we begin Year A Gospel of Matthew on the first Sunday of Advent.



If Matthew is your favorite or in your top favorites, let me know why. Either way, come to Adult Forum in December and let’s see what the Holy Spirit does through us with the Gospel of Matthew as our guide. At the very least, I know that study will deepen the experience of worship during Advent. Come and be fed!

Peace, **Pastor Caitlin**

Faith Formation

Adult Forum: The Gospel of Matthew, an overview

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

On Sundays December 1, 8, 15, and 22, join **Pastor Caitlin** in digging deeper into the Gospel of Matthew and enrich your experience of Sunday worship. The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is the interdenominational, three-year schedule of Bible readings. With Advent, Year A of the RCL focuses on the Gospel of Matthew. Come and be fed!

January Book Group

January’s selection is *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson.

After a long and eventful life, Allan Karlsson ends up in a nursing home, believing it to be his last stop. The only problem is that he’s still in good health, and in one day, he turns 100. A big celebration is in the works, but Allan really isn’t interested (and he’d like a bit more control over his vodka consumption). So he decides to escape. He climbs out the window in his slippers and embarks on a hilarious and entirely unexpected journey, involving,

among other surprises, a suitcase stuffed with cash, some unpleasant criminals, a friendly hot-dog stand operator, and an elephant (not to mention a death by elephant).

It would be the adventure of a lifetime for anyone else, but Allan has a larger-than-life backstory: Not only has he witnessed some of the most important events of the twentieth century, but he has actually played a key role in them. (Amazon)

Join us Monday, January 20 at 11:15 a.m., in the Anna Paulson Room. Bring your lunch, too!

Health Ministry



Holy Hectic Holidays! Good Grief!

Joy to the World, the Lord is Come! BUT, what if you do not feel joyful? You are hurting from some loss in your life. How can one get through the holidays while grieving the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, a promise broken, prolonged illness, or any other void intensified during holiday celebrations?

Consider these tips for coping with grief at Christmas compiled from Care Notes:

- Be patient and realistic. Perhaps scaling back on holiday commitments such as simplifying decorating, partying or baking. Recognize reduced energy, and be gentle with yourself.
- Listen to your heart and acknowledge your limits. Dedicate some time to quiet reflection and trust your feelings.
- Do things that lift your spirits. Join that group of carolers, volunteer at a local benefit event, or attend a special holiday concert or worship service, light candles and read the Christmas story in Luke 2, or watch the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*.
- Write a Christmas letter to your loved one or journal about your loss. There are no rules for this activity; your writing is between you and God.
- Share Christmas generosity. Making a gift in honor of your loved one affirms their spirit lives on.

- Get yourself moving, as you are able. Research indicates physical movement in any form supports healing: walking, stretching, cardio workouts, yoga, even chair exercise.
- Support your body, mind, and spirit with wholesome meals. Eat treats and drink alcohol in moderation after your body has been nourished.
- Allow the tears to come as you adapt cherished traditions. Remember it is perfectly normal to feel happiness and joy right in the midst of your grief. Your loved one would want you to feel merry.

*“Through the dark clouds of grief
Slivers of sunlight filter down.*

The pain and fear residing in my heart

Is starting to give way

To the hope of finding joy once again in my life.”

—Lana Golenbeski, “From the Ashes of Grief”

Nursing Notes from Sue Ann

#Holy #Hectic #Holidays

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do, be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13

This holiday Christmas season I am particularly aware of challenges with navigating the holidays after the loss of a loved one. My older brother, Phil, often called my twin while we were growing up, passed away unexpectedly and very untimely, this year. Therefore, I am keenly aware of the sting of death especially when there is an empty seat at the holiday celebration.

I am also sensitive to the potential for holy healing while walking through these holidays in the midst of loss and grief. My hunch would be that most of us have either also experienced a loss this year (loved one's death, loss of relationship, financial stability, job loss, health challenge, etc.) or know a friend, neighbor or work colleague who is journeying through this holiday season while grieving. How do we mix this hectic celebratory time of year with holiness and sadness?

I encourage you to pick up one of the many Care Notes in the display rack in the narthex.

Topics include “Getting through the Holidays when You’ve Lost a Loved One,” and “Grieving at Christmas, A Family Guide.” These easy-to-read brief pamphlets are full of comforting ideas for coping with the barrage of feelings and emotions present during Christmas stress and grief.

You are also invited to read the Health Ministry article in this Tower which includes practical tips for journeying through these hectic yet holy holiday weeks. Seek companionship, and know that healing comes with time and tears. I welcome a visit with you during these winter months. May our loving and tender God give you comfort in fond memories, in sharing your precious stories, and in knowing you are not alone.

Stay well this day and pray,

Sue Ann, Your FCN



Children, Youth, and Family

Mark your calendars for Warren Village Family Night!

Youth and their parents are invited to serve at Warren Village Family Night, Wednesday, January 8. We will provide a meal for families and games for the kids. You can sign up with **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) to work and provide food.

Glocal Involvement

Refugee Mentor training offered at Augustana in December

Lutheran Family Services, in partnership with the Denver Rescue Mission, is training teams to befriend recently arrived refugee families and help them for six months in four key areas: financial literacy, employment, practical life skills, and learning English. Enough people have expressed interest to justify an introduction/training session at Augustana. It will be Sunday, December 1, noon–3 p.m., in the Anna Paulson Room. Please let **Rhonda Crossen** know if you will be coming (303-333-5544 or rhonda.crossen@gmail.com). All are welcome!

If this time does not work for you, Lutheran Family Services will be doing the same training at their offices (1600 Downing St., #600, Denver) at the following times:

- Tuesday, December 3, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 7, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 11, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Find out more and sign up for these trainings at <https://www.lfsm.org/programs-and-services/refugees/refugee-asylee-volunteer-program/refugee-volunteer-sign/>.

Here are answers to questions asked about this program.

- **How many people work with one family?** One team of 4–6 mentors is assigned to one family. The goal is to make sure someone visits the family each week, and with a team there will likely be individuals with strengths in various areas (finances, education, law, medicine, etc.).
- **Can I get assigned to a family that is close to my house?** Lutheran Family Services says any family assigned to an Augustana team would be located within 20 minutes of Augustana.
- **I thought the number of refugees has fallen dramatically. Do they still really need this kind of help?** Despite the decreased numbers of refugees, Lutheran Family Services has a waiting list of families wanting mentors. The need is real.

Your church in action/ministry to and for others



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I
sing for joy.

Psalm 63:7

Dear friends,

Last year, multiple fires raged in California, devastating numerous communities and almost wiping out the city of Paradise. Now, one year after the Camp Fire—the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history—thousands of people remain displaced, many with no plan to return. In the wake of another round of fires in California, today we join in prayer for those who are on the long road to recovery, and we reflect upon God's faithfulness along the journey.

Thanks to you, Lutheran Disaster Response has been able to walk alongside communities impacted by the 2018 fires with crucial support—from emergency supplies such as food and bedding to emotional and spiritual care.

We're not done yet. We'll continue to accompany survivors until recovery is complete. Your continuing gifts help make this and other responses like it possible.

Thank you, again, for your generosity and support.

In Christ's service,

Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response
Funding

To give a gift to Lutheran Disaster Response, use the designated envelopes in Augustana's pew pockets and make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church. Or, donate online at www.augustanadenver.org; click on the "Giving" link.



One family's story

Katy Shrum and her daughter, both teachers at Paradise Elementary School, were on their way to school when they saw smoke. "We ignored it," Katy said. Seeing smoke in the area wasn't an uncommon occurrence. When they arrived at school,

however, they learned the extent of the fire and began evacuating the children.

"We had 19 kids who couldn't be picked up," Katy said. Teachers and others started loading children into their personal vehicles and transporting them to Chico, the nearest town.

Once Katy and her daughter had arrived in Chico, they tried to rendezvous with Katy's husband. "It took him five hours to make the drive that should have been 15 minutes," Katy said. Pastor Ben Colahan of Faith Lutheran Church in Chico, where the Shrum family worship, drove them the rest of the way to meet Katy's husband.

When the fire was extinguished and Katy and her husband could finally check on their property, they learned that their home and their daughter's home, just down the road—where she'd lived for only ten days—had been completely destroyed. "We only got out with the clothes we were wearing, nothing else," Katy said. "We lost two cars, a motor home, both our houses and our school! Hard to believe we spent 22 years in this house."

Three days after the fire, Katy and her family sought refuge at her sister's house in Fremont. "We were homeless for about three weeks," she said. Soon afterward, a childhood friend of Katy's gave the family

her motor home, so they would have a place to live and the opportunity to get back to work. Then, when Pastor Ben closed on his new home, he worked with the Shrum family to help them take over his apartment lease. “He’d saved us again,” Katy said.

Now that the family is settled, Katy and her husband are both retired and spend their days caring for their young grandson while Katy’s daughter works. “He’s moved 11 times in his short life,” Katy said. “I want to provide a stable place for him.” She also volunteers on Fridays to help fire-impacted children and families.

“I pray every day for those still suffering,” Katy said. “We have been blessed by so many people on our journey of healing. . . . My family received gift cards from complete strangers. All of this love and support gave us the strength to carry on and to see the kindness that was all around us. This love is what is needed in our world every day, and we are so grateful to everyone who loved us.”

Lutheran Family Services

Lutheran Family Services development volunteers needed!

Do you have a passion for our mission and familiarity with Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Data Entry? Can you commit to 3–4 hours/week with flexibility to choose Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.? Are you detail oriented?

We need database entry volunteers who are friendly and reliable and who can keep confidential information just that—confidential. Work at our Harlan Street office location, and enter data into Raiser’s Edge, help with special event prep, development research, occasional donor phone calls, copying, proofreading, prepare mailings, and help with various other administrative tasks.

We offer free parking and free admission to any events worked on, and we will always provide you with a safe and enjoyable working environment, including your own

desk and laptop to use while here, along with a folder containing weekly assigned tasks.

For full job description and details, contact **Lisa Ricci** (Lisa.Ricci@lfsrm.org or 303-217-5859).

Foster Care

Each year in Colorado, thousands of kids are unable to live with their biological parents because of abuse or neglect. We need families who can provide temporary care until children reunify with their parent, as well as families willing to adopt children and teens if they can’t return to their families.

Come find out if foster care is the right path for your family! No-cost, no-obligation, informational meetings are held throughout the Denver Metro area. You can find a list of our upcoming meetings on our website (<https://www.lfsrm.org/about-us/events/>). Individual meetings that fit your schedule can also be arranged.

For more information, contact **Nicole Brown** (303-217-5853 or nicole.brown@lfsrm.org).

Strategic Planning


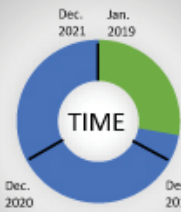
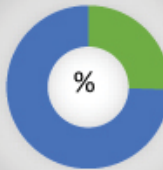
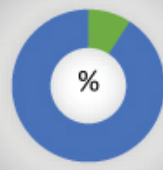
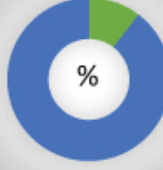
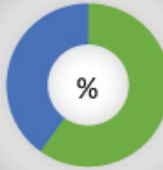
A visual progress report

In order to track progress on the “Vision 20/20” strategic plan for Augustana, the Congregation Council reviews a monthly summary of its current status. A snapshot will also be published monthly in the Tower along with some notable highlights,

to keep the congregation informed of progress. The timeline for the strategic plan is January, 2019 through December, 2021, so here is a summary of the first ten months of progress.

Recent highlights:

- Establishing a partnership with the food bank at George Washington High School.
- Creating a lunch space for all members of the congregation to enjoy a meal and fellowship together, helping to create community across all ages and allowing different ministry opportunities for youth and adults to happen after worship.
- The after-school program continues to grow, with six different schools served now.
- The new Evangelism Committee has been established.
- The Dakota land initiative is progressing with proposals received from developers and currently under review.

VISION 20/20 - STRATEGIC PLAN		% Complete	TIME
		26	
Ministry Result Area #1: Growing Faith		26	
1.2	Liturgy / Worship Style / Music	40	
1.3	Augustana Youth 2.0	33	
1.4	Faith formation for all ages	38	
1.5	Increase participation and commitment in Augustana's life	0	
1.6	Evangelism	34	
1.7	Governance	8	
Ministry Result Area #2: Caring for and Sharing Our Facility		9	
2.1	Caring for our facility	10	
2.2	Sharing our facility / Welcome / Outreach	8	
Ministry Result Area #3: Making Change		10	
3.1	More people volunteering from the congregation	0	
3.2	Partner with local school(s) and non-profits to support families, children, and youth in our surrounding community	16	
3.3	Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) - Local and Global	15	
MRA #4: Transforming Our Vacant Land		60	
4.1	Partner with InterFaith Alliance for a feasibility study.	100	
4.2	Congregation reviews / approves InterFaith + team/committee plan	80	
4.3	Implement results of feasibility study	0	



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 Health Ministry Sunday Worship/Communion 8am 9am 9am 9am 10:30am 11:30am Noon 3pm See JASS below	2 9:45am 10am 6:30pm 7pm Concert: Skyline Chorus	3 9am 5:30pm Library Committee Yoga	4 9am 9:45am 6pm 7:30pm Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel Augustana Firm Believers Augustana Ringers Chancel Choir	5 9:30am 9:30am 5:30pm The Tower deadline Thursday Morning Bible Study Phoebe Circle Mindfulness Yoga	6 8am 9:45am 7:30pm Bulletin Assembly Augustana Firm Believers Concert: "Christmas with the Colorado Choir"	7 10am 2:30pm Colorado Women's/Men's Choral: A Time to Wonder -Holiday Family Sing-Along 7:30pm Concert: "Christmas with the Colorado Choir"
8 Advent 2 Worship/Communion Faith Formation* Fellowship/Coffee 10:30am 11:30am 3pm Festival Christmas Concert	9 9:45am 10am Augustana Firm Believers Chapel Prayer	10 9:30am 5:30pm 6pm Deborah Circle Yoga Children, Youth & Family Ministry Committee	11 9am 9:45am 6pm 7:30pm AELC Chapel Augustana Firm Believers Augustana Ringers Chancel Choir	12 9:30am 10am 11am 5:30pm 6:30pm 7pm Thursday Morning Bible Study Sarah Circle Advent/Christmas Communion Service and Luncheon Mindfulness Yoga Theater & Theology: Twelfth Night Property Committee	13 8am 9:45am Bulletin Assembly Augustana Firm Believers	14 9am 4pm 5:15pm Dress Rehearsal: Festival Christmas Concert Trailblazers: Thornton WinterFest Swedish Club Lucia Festival
15 Advent 3 Worship/Communion Faith Formation* Fellowship/Coffee 9am Christmas Cookie Sale 10:30am 11:30am 7:30pm Augustana Arts: Gloria Festival Christmas Concert See JASS below	16 9:45am 10am Augustana Firm Believers Chapel Prayer	17 1pm 5:30pm 7pm The Tower Assembly Yoga Congregation Council	18 7:30am 9am 9:45am 6:30pm 6:30pm 7:30pm Foot Care Clinic AELC Chapel Augustana Firm Believers Alzheimer's Early Onset Support Longest Night: A Service of Healing and Hope Chancel Choir	19 9:30am 5:30pm Thursday Morning Bible Study Mindfulness Yoga	20 8am 9:45am Bulletin Assembly Augustana Firm Believers	21 10am Rehearsal: Candlelighters
22 Advent 4 Worship/Communion Faith Formation* Fellowship/Coffee 10:30am 11:30am See JASS below	23 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	24 3pm 5pm 7:30pm 10pm Christmas Eve Worship/Communion Worship/Communion Worship/Communion Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast	25 10:30am Christmas Day Worship/Communion	26 - office closed -	27 8am 9:45am Bulletin Assembly Augustana Firm Believers	28
29 Christmas 1 Worship/Communion Fellowship/Coffee 10:30am Worship/Communion See JASS below	30 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	31 New Year's Eve	*Faith Formation 9am 9:15am Faith Formation (Infants-Grade 12) Adult Forum	Jammin' Augustana Super Sundays (JASS) 12:15pm 1pm 1:45pm Cherubs, Choristers, GraceNotes Recorders, Cantabile, SONshine Ringers BELLievers		

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Place mailing label here



- 1** Ross Corace
Roseanne Isbell
Bertil Lager
Dolly Lager
- 2** Lisa Boe-Sims
Lynda Brecke
Kristin Hempelman
Barbara Watts
- 3** Rex Carter
Henok Yohannes
- 4** Ron Carnes
Charlie Daves
Christopher Desfosses
Jeanne Ireland
Linda Waisner
Madison White
- 5**
- 6** Dorie Fie
Lynn Friesen
Vicki Hildner

- 7** Caroline Batorowicz
Gwendolyn Hagebak
- 8** Emma Johnson
Phyllis Imholte
- 9** Greg Fuchs
Angela Howard
Rebecca Jones
Ronald Swenson
- 10** Barbara Lambert
- 11**
- 12** Brian Bernhard
Kay Hytjan
Jill Davies
June Walker
- 13** Ken Madsen
Marlene Pobrislo
- 14** William Mangione
- 15** Alec Abbott
Jordan Hempelman
Barbara Iwanowicz

- 16** Liam Wallman
- 17** Kit Choi
Heidi Johnson
- 18** Carolyn Gustafson
Susan Johnson
Jeffrey Yeager
- 19** Julie Anderson
Barbara Chesebro
Marj Kathmann
Norma Williams
- 20** Eric Clambey
- 21** Madison Kurpinsky
- 22**
- 23** Abby Zeckser
- 24** Eileen Pettijohn
Thomas Sigdestad
- 25** Ingrid Backes
Joyce Oleson
Paul Snyder
- 26** Blake Harwell
Alayna Nelson
- 27** Jerry Nick
E.L. Van Laningham
- 28** David Pettijohn
Evelyn Priest
Elle Walker

- 29** CharlieAnne Barrett
Nicholas Garvey
Justin Maxwell

30

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*If your name should
have been on this list
but wasn't, please call
Augustana's office (303-
388-4678).*