

From refugees to Augustana teachers

When you mention the names Azra and Yuliya with any family that has attended the Early Learning center in the last 20 years, you will get an immediate nod of appreciation.

This Tower issue has the stories (*see page 14*) of their journeys to Augustana Early Learning Center classrooms as well as Augustana's hopes for facilitating future success stories for refugees.



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Denver, CO 80246

Augustana

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FACEBOOK: [augustanadenver.com](https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver.com)

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

Worship

- **In-Person Worship**, Sundays, 8 a.m.
- **In-Person/Streamed Worship**, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
- [Watch on Facebook](#)
- [Watch on YouTube](#)

The Tower is published monthly for Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO, 80246-8104. There is no subscription fee.

Thursday, June 9, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the July edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Congregation Council:

President: Michael Zumwalt
Vice President: Pam Uyemura
Secretary: Karen Lambert
Treasurer: Bill Crossen

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Betty Boyd	Nancy Nyhus
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Janet Flesch	Inez Smith
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Heidi Johnson	Karen Yeager
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Staff:

- **Ann Hultquist**, Senior Pastor
- **Caitlin Trussell**, Pastor
- **Lisa Mikolajczak**, Finance Administrator
- **Shanna VanderWel**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
- **Andrew Peters**, Minister of Music and Organist
- **Kevin Padworski**, Chancel Choir Director
- **Angela Howard**, Choristers and Cantabile Director
- **Sue Ann Glusenkamp**, Faith Community Nurse
- **Lyn Goodrum**, Publications Administrator
- **Julie MacDougall**, Volunteer Ministry and Building Use
- **Emily Friesen**, Livestream Technician
- **Garry Garcia**, Facilities Manager
- **Asmir Hodzic**, Building and Grounds Manager
- **Amaleah Buzzell, Ogden Willoughby**, Custodians
- **Ellen Kastens, Amy Tamminga, Erin Saboe Willoughby**, Wedding Coordinators
- **Wendie Edwards**, Director, Augustana Early Learning Center

Rejoice with . . .

- Oz Thomas Andrew Bakkemo, son of Christopher and Shelley Bakkemo and grandson of Chickie Bakkemo, in his baptism
- Logan Lynn Faires, son of Andrew and Kayla Faires, in his baptism
- Lee Klein Tamminga, son of Miles and Stevi Tamminga and grandson of Craig and Amy Tamminga, in his baptism
- Megan and Robert Schoales, daughter of Tamra Mohs, sister of Kari Kusek, in their marriage April 17


Recently lifted up in prayer

For hope and healing:

- Leigh Abbott
- Jim Apple
- John B.
- Dominic Biancalana
- David Blanchard
- Charlotte Butler
- Venus Conklin
- Harvey Crow
- Don Dueck
- Jean Garvey
- Randine Hughes
- Lauren and Derek Kruse
- Arlien Johnson
- Richard Lamphere
- Diana Mitts
- Lisa Murphy
- Pat and Hugh Neilson
- Addy and Evvy Olson
- Kara and Greg Olson
- Peyton Paulmeno-Schellenbaum
- Diane and Earl Pilloud
- Rita Rosemary
- Ron Schuster
- Rafao Skrzyniarz
- Marilyn and Ron Stember
- Tom Szvedko
- Lynn Veit

For comfort and courage:

- Rex Carter in the death of his mother, Minnie Carter
- family and friends of Earl Conrad in his death
- Ron and Sue Ann Glusenkamp in the death of their neighbor, Lydia Dueck
- family and friends of Mary Kay Hubbell in her death
- Lisa Bickle and family in the death of her father Eddie Kopperud
- Family and friends of Ulla-Majken Lugg in her death
- Tim Libby in the death of his grandmother, Marie Worthington
- Amy Hamik in the death of her friend, Haley Johnson



Ongoing prayers move to weekly Prayer Chain email

Ongoing Prayers in the worship announcement page will be moved to the weekly emailed Prayer Chain. If you would like to receive the weekly Prayer Chain, email Pastor Caitlin, and you'll be added to the list.

All time-sensitive or urgent prayer requests should be emailed to **Pastor Caitlin** (pastor.caitlin.trussell@gmail.com) or called to Augustana's office (303-388-4678).

Other requests may be submitted online at prayerrequestaugustana@gmail.com. You can designate online requests for Prayer Chain and/or Sunday worship prayers. Sunday prayers are prayed in worship for two weeks.

About Augustana's Care Team

We meet weekly on Wednesdays to coordinate visitation, phone calls, home communion, and Sunday Worship Prayers for hope and healing, consolation, births, and baptisms. Care Team includes Volunteer Coordinator **Julie MacDougall**, Deacon **Shanna VanderWel**, Faith Community Nurse **Sue Ann Glusenkamp**, **Pastor Ann**, and **Pastor Caitlin**.

Please call or email Julie (303-388-4678 or macdougall@augustanadenver.org) to let us know if you have health updates like scheduled surgeries, changes in living situations, or other medical and/or caring needs news. Call the church emergency line (303-862-3027) to connect with a pastor in the event of sudden hospitalization or end-of-life care.

Thanks, Augustana!

Thank you to Seki for taking photos of the baptism of my grandson, Oz Thomas Andrew Bakkemo, and to Pastor Ann for making the baptism such a special occasion!

Chickie Bakkemo

Augustana,

As I attended Mary K. Hubbell's funeral last Friday, I was reminded of the many caring members who help with these events—Pastor Trussell and Sue Ann Glusenkamp, who led the service, Emmett Cruson, usher, members of the Funeral Reception Committee: Ellen Kastens, Mary Ann Bovee, and Katherine Cruson, and, as always, Seki for welcoming and guiding visitors through the building. I am so proud and grateful to be a part of Augustana's congregation.

Regards,

Karen Bourg

Dear Augustana,

Thank you all for your prayers, hugs, cards, and expressions of support and sympathy and for your grace during the illnesses and deaths of my parents, Neil and Rose Kvern. Our whole family has been blessed by Augustana's love and care.

Know my daily prayers of gratitude for Augustana's ministry and for God's guidance and blessing as you proclaim and live out the gospel. I am honored and proud to be part of you!

In Christ's love,

Lyn Goodrum

Thank you for the gifts!

Health Ministry

- in memory of Ulla Majken Lugg, Dave Peters,

Special Gifts

- in memory of Alma Flory, Bernice Thoele



Shanna shares a Bible story at S'more Fun & Worship

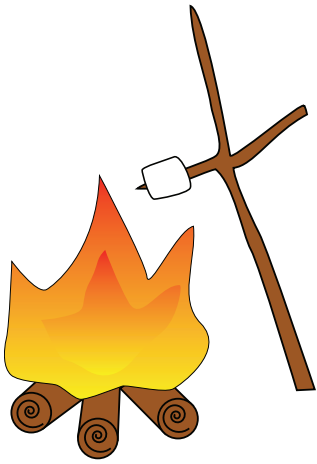
Shanna is staying!

As you are likely aware, Deacon Shanna VanderWel, resigned her position here at Augustana. Her last Sunday was to be June 5. But, thanks be to God, her family's plans have changed, and they are staying in Denver! The congregation council has approved a 20-hour-a-week call to her as Minister of Youth and Family. While this is a change for our congregation, we will still be able to benefit from Shanna's many gifts, her organizational skills, and her love for the people of Augustana. In March of 2023 there will be a reevaluation to determine if part-time hours remain a good solution for this position.

Shanna came to Augustana in the fall of 2016 after completing her call with a congregation in Virginia. Along with her came her husband Ryan and baby Cora. During the time she's been with us, the VanderWel family welcomed Arlo and then Reina, and we have had the joy of having their family participate in so many areas of ministry and of seeing their children grow in our community.

Shanna's ministry is a great gift to Augustana! To list just a few ways that she has impacted our congregation's ministry: mission trips with youth and adults; implementing S'more summer worship; Bible study for young adults; Breakfast Club with High School Youth; helping to coordinate and re-shape Sunday Faith Formation (including pandemic Zoom and recorded sessions!); Advent Adventure; Chili Cook-Off; Bowls for ELCA World Hunger; confirmation camp; children's sermons; "used" Bible for graduating seniors, and so much more.

She has modeled for youth and adults what faithful, real-life following of Jesus looks like. Her engagement with all ages, her wonderful sense of humor, and her commitment to Christ enrich our congregation. We look forward to this new chapter in our congregation's life and ministry!



S'more Fun and Worship in July

S'more Fun and Worship will be back this summer on Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27! All ages are invited to come to Augustana's Quist park for a camp-style worship with s'mores starting at 6:30 p.m. Come early and/or stay late to play outside, converse with friends, or even pack a picnic to enjoy. While not necessary, you may want to bring a water bottle and lawn chair or blanket. If you are interested in playing guitar for this worship service, please contact **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107).

Pastor Ann

Pastor Ann reflects on her pastoral journey



"Why do you want to be a pastor?" While still in college, that's the first question I had to answer as I began the process of applying to go to seminary. Ever the proud parents, mine took a picture of me on the day I went before the synod Candidacy

Committee. I look young and earnest; and I was both of those things. In answering the question, I said something along the lines of "to help people." There was, as you can imagine, a lot of learning and a lot of fleshing out of those words in the years that came next.

I have had four calls to congregations, and each one has been different: from the almost stereotypically Midwest of Cedar Rapids, to wild and windy Casper, WY, a mission start in Broomfield, and now here at Augustana. Along the way, I have learned a great deal about being a pastor from the people I've had the privilege to serve. I have been challenged, blessed, brought up short, and entrusted with joys and sorrows.

Here at Augustana I still have the gift of being a part of our pastoral Care Team, but I also have a

**I have been challenged,
blessed, brought up
short, and entrusted
with joys and sorrows.**

number of responsibilities in administration, such as serving on the Foundation Board, the Augustana Arts Board, and the AELC Board, supervising various staff members, being the pastor lead for Worship and Music, Stewardship, and Finance Support. I lead our weekly staff meetings and work with staff and volunteers to plan ministry and programming. The days are varied and full!

The definition of vocation as "where your gifts and the needs of the world meet" has been true for me and is a blessing. Thank you for the partnership we share here and for the ways we all live out our earnest and faithful call to follow Jesus.

Pastor Ann

Pastor Caitlin

What would you fight for? (P.C.'s roles 1:4—or maybe 5)



During my interview with Augustana's Call Committee nine years ago, someone asked, "What would you fight for?" I said, "The Gospel." Such a simple yet complicated answer. Pastors are called by the gospel

just like everyone else but are additionally ordained into "Word and Sacrament." We are called to preach, teach, baptize, and preside at Holy Communion. Like everyone else, our work also includes "other duties as assigned." Often, not always, these duties relate to our spiritual gifts.

When I first felt the call, I said, "I think I'm supposed to be a pastor." My brother, who recently converted to Judaism after raising his children in the Jewish tradition of my amazing sister-in-law, said it this way, "Oh, as a nurse you heal bodies, and as a pastor you heal souls." I'd quibble with the theology in that wording, but Kevin was onto something when he highlighted healing.

Jesus was and is a healer. Martin Luther wrote "Of the Gospel" that its counsel includes Word, Sacrament, Office of the Keys (forgiveness), AND "the mutual conversation and consolation of the [congregation]."¹ We pray every week in worship for hope and healing. Sometimes these prayers are embodied:

- Talking with each other after worship to find out how someone is doing.
- Making phone calls before and after surgery or chemo or a death.
- Visiting people at home or rehab or hospital.

This happens intentionally on Care Team and organically among all of us in the congregation. Part of what I get to do with Augustana is use my spiritual gift of healing. (Healing does not

Pastors are called by the gospel just like everyone else but are additionally ordained into "Word and Sacrament."

mean that illnesses are cured, but that's a topic for another day.) I facilitate Care Team meetings, shepherd congregational care, and supervise the role of the Faith Community Nurse. But it for sure takes a team. A team that includes all of us who are a part of Augustana for the "mutual conversation and consolation of the [congregation]."

Peace, **Pastor Caitlin**

This note begins a series about my pastoral call with you. Of course, my call is to Word and Sacrament which is obvious things like preaching, teaching, communion, baptisms, and funerals. It's also more:

- Congregational Care (Care Team, Prayers—Worship prayers and weekly Prayer Chain, Faith Community Nurse supervision)
- Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry
- Evangelism, Messaging and Media (Welcome Connection, Livestream, Social Medias)
- Adult Learning

¹Martin Luther. Smalcald Article IV. bookofconcord.org/smalcald-articles/iii/of-the-gospel/



Music Ministry

As we begin summer worship services, I would like to highlight three changes to music during these three months.

First, the Chancel Choir gets a break from their weekly rehearsals and participation in the 10:30 a.m. service. During June and July, the 10:30 a.m. service will have an offering anthem sung by the Summer Choir. This new ad hoc choral ensemble is open to all ages and anyone wishing to sing. I will direct this ensemble each Sunday (with the exception of June 12), and I hope you will consider singing with us. We will meet 9:45–10:20 a.m. in the Anna Paulson Room and work on the music for that morning's service. There's no need to reserve a spot; just show up for rehearsal. I'm hoping that families, spouses, partners, and friends of other singers will consider singing in this group as a way to make music together.

Second, summer worship will include some of Augustana's soloists and instrumentalists. If you

haven't spoken with me about your interest in helping lead worship in this way, please let me know, and I will schedule you to play or sing in an upcoming service. Augustana is blessed with so many talented singers and instrumentalists.

Third, I invite anyone interested to come up front to the chancel during the postlude. Since the chancel won't have the regular choir (the Summer Choir will sit in the congregation and come up only for the offering), you are welcome to sit by the organ console during the postlude. Even though I play services from the front, the organ console is hidden from the congregation. You're welcome to watch and listen to the postlude with a closer view of the organ console.

I look forward to seeing you at Augustana during summer worship.

Grace and peace,
Andy



▲ Equipment from the sound closet lines the hallway

Livestream team cleans, purges, and organizes

We have cleaned up the sound closet! With help from MediaVine, we sorted through all of the different microphones, cords, and miscellaneous technology.

After being misplaced, the hearing aid assist packs have been relocated! I will be working on getting new headphones for them. Check back in June for an update on that!

I also have a new camera to take videos and pictures for the slides before and after the livestream. So if you see me roaming around taking pictures, smile big!

Thank you for watching the livestream!

Emily

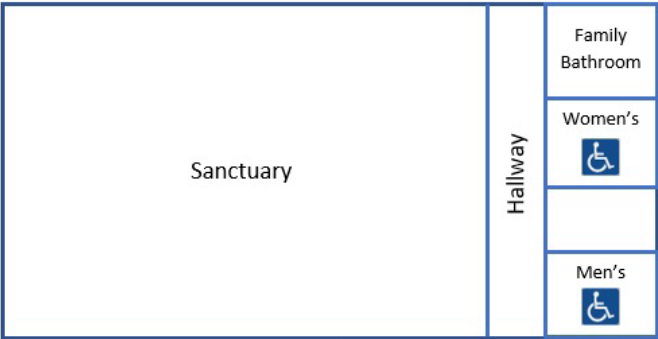
Livestream Technician

▼ Newly organized sound closet



New signage for bathrooms

We have three bathrooms in the hallway just east of the sanctuary, one of which is the new family bathroom that includes a toilet, sink, changing table, and sitting area. And although this bathroom is not considered handicap accessible, the women's and men's bathrooms in this hallway are designed for handicap access.



To help address the concern for privacy in using the men's and women's bathrooms when handicap access is needed for a visitor, friend or loved one, we have installed new signs on the doors that direct others to use the family bathroom for such situations. Each of the signs read as follows:

Side 1



Side 2



The message on side 2 of these signs should be displayed while in use and then turned back over to side 1 when no longer needed. Thank you for your understanding, and please direct any questions to the Augustana church staff.

Children, Youth, Family



Register today!

Kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade in fall 2022 are invited to join staff from Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, July 11-14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., each day for music, games, worship, Bible stories, crafts and more! Cost will be \$75 per person with a \$150 family maximum.

Register today online at augustanadenver.org, and please complete and submit the Participant Health Form, too!

How to help with VBS

We need volunteers to provide housing for our counselors along with breakfasts, lunches and dinners for the week. If you are interested in doing any of these roles, please contact Shanna (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107).

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to volunteer at VBS. You can help serve snacks, coordinate games, assist counselors, and help with other leadership opportunities. Contact Shanna to learn more.

Augustana's summer nursery schedule

Augustana's nursery staff will be on hiatus during June and July, but, along with the Caring Corner, the nursery will be available for children accompanied by an adult who may need a quiet place.



Congregation Council

Special Augustana Congregation Meeting: Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 28, 2022!

Hello Everyone,
Please note that we are holding a special congregation meeting on Sunday, August 28, at 11:45 a.m., following 10:30 a.m. worship. Your attendance is greatly appreciated for this important event to vote on proposed changes to both our constitution and bylaws. We also expect to share an update with you on progress with the Dakota Avenue property development with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver.

Items currently included on agenda:

1. **Changes to Augustana's governance documents, as approved by Council, in need of approval by congregation.**

Constitution: Reduce quorum from 75 to 60.

Details: The quorum needed for approving agenda, minutes and initiatives at congregation meetings is traditionally a reflection of the congregation's size. As the size of our congregation has shrunk over the years, it is appropriate to reduce the quorum commensurately. The number 60 ensures that representation at the meetings, outside of

Council attendance, would be about 20% of active attendees. The section in our constitution affected by this proposed change is as follows:

Chapter 10.

Congregation Meeting

C10.04. 75 60 voting members shall constitute a quorum

Bylaws: Reduce minimum number of annual congregation meetings from two to one, and change the process to address budget request.

Details: While special meetings may still be called during the year, the minimum number of annual meetings only needs to be one, and it will be held sometime in the month of January. Among other tasks at this meeting, budget approval and nomination of voting member candidates to Council, Nominating Committee and Rocky Mountain Synod would all be completed. Discussion of the annual report, normally done as part of semiannual meeting in February, would instead be hosted by Council at coffee hour(s) in the month of February.

Because a single annual congregation meeting would affect the timing of budget preparation and approval, another section (7) of the bylaws would also be affected.

The sections in our bylaws affected by these proposed change are as follows:

Currently

- 2) The Congregation shall meet at least twice yearly
 - a. in the month of February to receive reports and to conduct any other necessary business and
 - b. in the month of November to elect members to the Congregation Council, voting members to Synod Assembly and to the nominating committee, to approve the budget for the ensuing fiscal year and to conduct any other necessary business.
- 7) Budgets shall be prepared annually in September and October by the Congregation Council. By September 1 of each year all congregational committees shall submit to the Congregation Council in writing, specific budget requests. A consolidated budget shall be prepared by the Finance Support Committee for discussion at the September meeting of the Congregation Council and printed and distributed to the congregation at least ten days prior to the November annual meeting of the congregation.

Proposed changes

- 2) The Congregation shall meet at least annually in the month of January to elect members to the Congregation Council (prior to the first Council meeting of the year), voting members to Synod Assembly and to the nominating committee, to approve the budget for the ensuing fiscal year and to conduct any other necessary business.
- 7) All congregational committees, and other units within the organization, shall submit to the church staff in writing, specific budget

requests. A consolidated budget shall then be prepared by the church staff, with any required assistance from the Finance Support Committee, for approval by the Congregation Council sufficiently in advance to allow for distribution of the proposed budget to the congregation at least ten days prior to the annual meeting of the congregation.

2. Update on development of Dakota Ave Property by Habitat for Humanity. Invited guest, Kory Whitaker, Real Estate Manager, HFHMD.

Your attendance to this special congregation meeting is greatly appreciated.

Michael Zumwalt

President of the Congregation

Minister of Youth and Family Search Committee

A Search Committee was appointed by the congregation council to fill this position at Augustana. The members of the committee are **Lisa Boe-Sims, Alan Motes, Janet Flesch, Will Smith, Finley Zumwalt, and Pastors Ann and Caitlin**. Due to Shanna staying in Denver, the Committee was unanimous in recommending a part-time call to her. This arrangement will be reevaluated in March 2023. Thanks to these folks for their help in discerning the future for this position.



Understanding the Energy from the SUN

#sunburn#ouch#skincancer#sunscreen

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 3, for the next Health Ministry Sunday during coffee hour, 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Theme is UV Safety with speaker **Deni Moran**, skin care specialist and acupuncturist, at 9:30 a.m.

Do you know . . .

- what hours of the day present the greatest risk for sunburn?
- 80% of UV rays can penetrate clouds on a cloudy day!
- how many feet of elevation causes a loss of 5% of ozone protection?
- the differences between UVA, UVB, and UVC?

Come to enjoy some coffee, tea, or lemonade and treats and to learn valuable lessons on how to protect the largest body organ this summer—SKIN!

Health Ministry Team will have informational handouts and FREE sunscreen samples from Rocky Mountain Sunscreen (<https://rmsunscreens.com/>), and will provide blood pressure checks as well.

Please note: No Health Ministry Sunday on June 5.

Alzheimer's caregiver support group

Beginning Wednesday, June 22, the Alzheimer's Association offers a Hybrid Caregiver Support Group in person in Augustana's Anna Paulson Room or by Zoom, every fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30–8 p.m.

Alzheimer's Association support groups conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for people living with dementia and their care partners to:

- develop a support system
- exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions
- talk through issues and ways of coping
- share feelings, needs, and concerns
- learn about community resources

Zoom logins:

- Zoom Meeting ID: 916 8056 5695
- Passcode: 536819
- Dial-In Number: 833-548-0276

Visit alz.org/crf to learn more about caregiver programs and resources.



RESCHEDULED*

October 14, 2022
Augustana Lutheran Church

Growing with Purpose

- Save the Date
- Additional Volunteers Needed
- Sponsorship Opportunities

Contact: **Denise Sanderson** (303-550-8350 or DeniseSanderson105@gmail.com)

**The 50th Anniversary Gala scheduled for November 5, 2021, was postponed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and our commitment to the health and safety of our community.*

Study/Fellowship

Hear highlights of Pastor Caitlin's continuing ed trip to Montgomery

Sunday, June 12, noon—1 p.m., Anna Paulson Room

A rabbi, a priest, a pastor, a Bahá'í, a Mormon, an African-Methodist-Episcopal, a Buddhist, another rabbi . . . you get the idea . . . went to Montgomery, Alabama. No joke, just a few multi-race, multifaith leaders from Colorado who visited The Legacy Museum (American slavery), National Memorial for Peace and Justice (sometimes called the lynching museum), and more. I'll present a few highlights from the trip and answer questions as they come up. Snacks will be available.

June Book Group

If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin is the June Book Group selection.

"In this honest and stunning novel that inspired the award-winning major motion picture of the same name, James Baldwin has given America a moving story of love in the face of injustice. Told through the eyes of Tish, a nineteen-year-old girl, in love with Fonny, a young sculptor who is the father of her child, Baldwin's story mixes the sweet and the sad. Tish and Fonny have pledged to get married, but Fonny is falsely accused of a terrible crime and imprisoned. Their families set out to clear his name, and as they face an uncertain future, the young lovers experience a kaleidoscope of emotions—affection, despair, and hope. In a love story that evokes the blues, where passion and sadness are inevitably intertwined, Baldwin has created two characters so alive and profoundly realized that they are unforgettably ingrained in the American psyche" (Amazon).

Join us on Monday, June 20 at 1 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. If you have questions, contact **Ellen Kastens** (303-475-7877 or ekkastens@gmail.com).

Senior Ministry



Take our 60+ Active Adult Ministry Survey!

Augustana's Senior Ministry is seeking data to help the committee plan ministry that promotes

the spiritual, physical, and social well-being of Augustana members and friends age 60 and older. Use the scan code to complete the survey online by Monday, June 20. Thank you!

Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors

From refugees to Augustana teachers

When you mention the names Azra and Yuliya with any family that has attended the Early Learning center in the last 20 years, you will get an immediate nod of appreciation. **Azra Beganovic** and **Yuliya Stolyar** both work as teachers at Augustana's Early Learning Center. Azra and Yuliya both came to this country through the support of a refugee agency. As horrific times continue in our world and, refugees continue to be resettled here in the United States and abroad, we thought it would be great to look back at the stories of those we know and love who are part of our community.

Azra

Azra's story begins at a refugee camp in 1992 in central Bosnia during the time of what she describes as "the bloodiest and most horrific experience Europe saw since WWII," which

included genocide and ethnic cleansing. Azra lived two years in the Bosnian refugee camp. Azra's cousin, Nermin, had survived the concentration camp and had come to Denver the year before through Lutheran Refugee Services and sponsored by Augustana Lutheran Church. He then sponsored Azra and Nijaz, also through Lutheran Refugee Services. Eight months after Azra came to the United States, a peace agreement was signed in Bosnia.

Azra finds it unbelievable that something like that is happening again in Ukraine. "This is the beginning," she says. "Things will be much worse before they get better."

She talks about how when refugees are going through war and displacement, little things matter, like when John Cowee gave Azra's husband some work gloves. She is very appreciative to Leah Peden who helped to find places to live and work and with basics like getting groceries. One of Augustana's circles organized a baby shower for Azra when she was pregnant. "Augustana is really special to me," says Azra.

Azra's son, Nermin, was in the first generation of toddlers at Augustana's Early Learning Center, and when he was 2, Azra started working at the Augustana Early Learning Center. Now an adult, he worked at Cherry Creek country club where an Augustana group went for a celebration, and he recognized many of the Augustana people.

Azra will have worked at the Augustana Early Learning 25 years this June.

Yuliya

Yuliya Stolyar came to the United States from Ukraine in 1992 when it was still the USSR and under communist regime. Because of the





Chernobyl explosion, she and her husband, Konstantin, became sick and spent many years in the hospital. They left Ukraine to seek better medical care and because the country was collapsing. Yuliya's paperwork took five years to process. She came through the Jewish community. Her husband escaped from Ukraine without paperwork. During that time Yuliya was supporting the family and going to school earning a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from University of Colorado. After eight years, Konstantin's paperwork was finally completed, and he could work.

When asked about connections in Ukraine, Yuliya shares that Konstantin's 83-year-old father and brother are still in Ukraine and don't want to leave. Their windows are shattered; many structures are destroyed. "Many things will need to be rebuilt from zero," adds Yuliya. Many of Yuliya's friends are choosing to stay and fight. Yuliya's mom, Lidiya, who lives in Denver, cries every day about the conflict in Ukraine.

In 1998, Yuliya was hired by Paula Keller to work part-time in the Augustana Early Learning Center, eventually moving to full-time. Yuliya and Konstantin have two sons, Lemi and Dany, both of whom attended the Augustana Early Learning Center.

Let's make more success stories!

Augustana's CAN Ministry hopes to be able to share more success stories like Azra's and Yuliya's. Please read the article "Refugee Resettlement Reimagined" in this Tower (*next page*) for thoughts about how this might look, and watch Augustana's publications about how you can be involved. You can help this very day by donating to the Augustana Refugee Family Support fund through Augustana's giving page or by designating your check to this fund payable to Augustana, and/or by designating your gift for Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern European Crisis.

Prayers for God's blessings on the teaching and childcare work of Miss Azra and Miss Yuliya are welcome, and for the well-being of their family and friends. This prayer was recently included in Augustana's worship:

God of hope, unite the collective will of the world to lead us to peace for the people of Ukraine. Soften the hearts of Russian and other world leaders. Guide us to individual actions that promote peace and prioritize care for refugees. Amen.



Refugee Resettlement Reimagined— an Augustana ministry?

Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry formed a workgroup to better understand how our congregation might support a refugee family new to Denver. The group concluded that we could work with Lutheran Family Services as the support organization, and that on the work group alone there are many individuals eager to help refugees in dealing with many of their needs. Aspects of life in need of assistance include finding housing, using public transportation, obtaining the necessary immigration paperwork, finding jobs, shopping (food, clothing, supplies), enrolling in public schools, understanding the medical care systems, and acquiring English language skills.

An overall coordinator from Augustana to work with this team is essential for our success in adequately supporting a family. Might you feel that call? You have support. We know that members of CAN, and anticipate that others in the congregation, will also be happy to help. What we are missing is a person willing and able to manage this effort and coordinate among Lutheran Family Services, the refugee family, and those volunteers in our congregation who want to help the family navigate life in Denver.

For more information, contact **Pastor Caitlin** (pastor.caitlin.trussell@gmail.com).

Augustana Lutheran Church Refugee Family Support

Our hearts, minds, and prayers continue to be with Afghan, Syrian, and now almost 2 million Ukrainian refugees. CAN Ministry invites you to give to “Augustana Refugee Family Support” either at augustanadenver.org or by check to Augustana Lutheran Church, memo line: Augustana Refugee Family Support. This money will lay groundwork for Augustana’s refugee response to either support and engage with a local refugee family or go directly to vetted organizations that support refugee relocation.

If you’re feeling called to immediately support the refugees in Eastern Europe and/or locally, CAN recommends giving to Augustana’s “Eastern European Crisis Response,” either at augustanadenver.org or by check, so that our monetary gifts can be combined and sent from the Augustana congregation to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR.org) who work with partners in that area to apply 100% of our gifts to the crisis.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

An Update: Lenten 40 Days of Giving to ELCA World Hunger!

Thank you, one and all, who gave money during Lent to reduce immediate hunger and work towards self-sufficiency in communities around the world! You gave a total of \$2,375.01 which was given to ELCA World Hunger from our congregation.

Thanks for Easter baskets for Warren Village and First Step

Thanks to the generosity of 29 Augustana households, Rachel Circle and Sarah Circle, 105 King Soopers \$40 gift cards were donated to Warren Village and First Step before Easter. In addition, Thrivent Action Team grants provided boxes of instant mashed potatoes and canned fruit. Also, 10 King Soopers \$20 gift cards were donated to Ivy Crossing, a partnership of Warren Village. Warren Village and First Step are residential facilities which provide housing, job skills, child care and support for low income, single-parent families, usually for a two-year period. Visit the [Warren Village website](#) for additional information, including volunteer opportunities as well as donation opportunities. Thanks, Augustana, for your caring and giving.

Summer book invitation from Augustana's Human Dignity Delegates

You're invited to read the summer book choice as the HDDs continue to work on and learn about issues of human dignity through the lens of faith. *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram K. Kendi, American author and historian, was

chosen because race continues to be an issue that confounds even the most well-intentioned of us. We'll critique the book's content from multiple viewpoints. Pastor Caitlin will lead a brief check-in conversation on Sunday, July 10, 9:15–10 a.m., and we'll gather for more discussion at the regular second Sunday of the month meeting on August 14, noon–1:30 p.m., Anna Paulson Room.

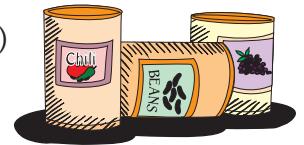
Soup Shelf needs stocking!

As the seasons change, food insecurity and hunger remain. Take a minute during your grocery shopping to pick up canned goods for the Soup Shelf. Put the cans in the Soup Shelf staging area in the narthex entrance of the sanctuary. CAN Ministry folks rotate the restocking task. Call Augustana's office (303-388-4678) if you'd like to help—many hands make light work!

Needed items include pop-top cans of:

- Hearty meat soups
- Canned fruit (like peaches)
- Tuna or chicken

Cans keep out the critters!



Welcome Connection

Name tags are coming!

Here's why:

- Name tags are welcoming.
- Invites more conversation.
- Helps us remember each other.

You may have seen some of the new name tags. We want everyone interested to have their own name tag. A grant is being requested to help with the funding. More to come next month on how to get yours!

Stratus Chamber Orchestra conductor chosen!

After a nearly-year long search, Stratus Chamber Orchestra has chosen its next Music Director, **Maestro Adam Torres**, who will begin his tenure in the 2022–2023 season.

For Torres, “I couldn’t be more excited for the opportunity to build connections through music with the musicians and patrons of Stratus—the world needs music now more than ever, and I know that Stratus is ready to meet this challenge with sincere, creative, and innovative artistry.”

Adam led Stratus in its most recent concert, “For the Love of Music,” featuring the music of Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko and a world premiere by Colorado composer James David paired alongside works by Haydn, Beethoven, and Vaughan Williams.

Maestro Torres joins the orchestra with a seasoned history and a diverse skill set in his work as a conductor and pianist. Torres previously served as the Assistant Conductor for Fort Collins Symphony, as a staff conductor for the Denver Young Artists Orchestra, and as Principal Conductor for Loveland Opera Theatre. Other highlights of Adam’s engagements as a conductor include Cheyenne Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. Adam has served on the CSU faculty since 2011 and currently holds the rank of Senior Instructor as an online-curriculum specialist with the CSU School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.



According to concertmaster Arlette Townsend, “There is much excitement and enthusiasm surrounding Adam’s appointment, and next year promises to be thrilling!” Stratus, guided by its mission in bridging the gap between audience and artist, will unveil the 2022–2023 season in the upcoming weeks.

Save the date: “25th Season Launch Party”

Sunday, August 28, at 3 p.m., Courtyard

Mark your calendars for our 2022–23 “25th Season Launch Party”! Meet Adam. Secure season tickets. Greet Stratus musicians and more.

For more information or to stay engaged with the Stratus Chamber Orchestra, please visit AugustanaArts.org.

“Music of the Vine— A Spanish Excursion”

Friday, June 10, 7 p.m., Bethany Lutheran Church (4500 E. Hampden Ave.)

Augustana Arts presents its signature wine tasting with a regional music experience! Experience the bold, energetic, percussive sounds of Flamenco music with one of the world’s foremost solo Flamenco guitarists—**René Heredia**. During the performance, distinguished master wine expert **Claude Robbins** will pair Spanish wines and cheeses for a spectacular fusion of toque and tannins that will introduce you to Spanish culture! So sit back, sip on your vino, and be serenaded by Maestro Heredia’s virtuosic talents for a perfect date night or evening of fine wine with friends.

Augustana members receive \$10 off all tickets with code ALC10. Tickets available at AugustanaArts.org. Early bird pricing is \$35/person and \$60/couple. After June 5, prices increase! Join us for a fun evening with friends, family, wine, cheese and music!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	2	3 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	4 4pm Wedding
5 Day of Pentecost Health Ministry Sunday 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Augustana Knitters	6 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	7 9am Library Committee	8 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	9 7pm The Tower deadline Men's Bible Study	10 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	11
12 The Holy Trinity 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	13 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	14 7:30pm Reopening Task Force	15 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group	16	17 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	18
19 Pentecost 2 Father's Day 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	20 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Book Group	21 4:30pm Yoga 7pm Congregation Council	22 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 4pm Augustana Early Learning Center Parent Committee	23 10am Senior Ministry 7pm Men's Bible Study	24 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	25
26 Pentecost 3 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	27 7:30am Foot Care Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	28	29 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	30		

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A banner for June Birthdays. It features three stylized suns in shades of orange and yellow on the left. To the right, the word "JUNE" is written in large, bold, white capital letters on an orange background. Below "JUNE", the word "Birthdays" is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

JUNE Birthdays

- 1 Colin Stone
- 2
- 3 Linda Ducnuigeen
Christopher
Garrington
Anna Reinert
Allison Terry
James Walker
- 4 Doug Hein
- 5 Jerry Margues
Barbara O'Malley
- 6 Olivia Bolt
- 7 Kevin Brady
Kay Cruson
Ernest Eugster
Allison Janda
Loren Koszowski
Farrel Vikman
- 8 Elizabeth Frank
Anna Johnson
Thomas McNassor
Joshua Nicholls
Charles Zabel

- 9 Marion Colliander
Shelley Ezpeleta
Stella Logsdon
Denise Lopez
Carolyn Snell
- 10 Jean Gall
Roger Loots
Derek Porterfield
- 11 Crystal Berguin
Simon Bernhard
Alfred Born
Annika Theiss
- 12 Suvi Miller
Mildred Orendorff
Betty Waters
- 13 Carol Troike
- 14 Karen Garvey
Tiffanie Stasiak
- 15 Ella Edstrom
Michael Gentes
David Nygaard
- 16 Rick Bebee
Rhonda Crossen
Dan Howard
Rich Lamphere
Sharon Siegel

- 17 Rebecca Shandrick
Andrew Stavig
Jason Triplett
Annabel Woodward

- 18 Claire Miller

- 19 Elizabeth Black
Mara Jacobs
Stuart Motes
Peggy Ribbing

- 20 Paige DiStefano
Norman Gay

- 21 Greta Devol
Judith Nyquist
Henry Shellhorn
Alice Taron

- 22 Katherine Buchanan
Chris Rhea
Minna Towery

- 23 Roger Andersen
Brian Spano
Sarah Stuart

- 24 Rachel Havranek
Mavis Tell

- 25 Nancy Cowee
Ronald Johnson

- 26 Anya Bornhijm
Caroline Johnson
Anne Stratton

- 27 Kaylee Snow
Amelia Stratton
Lynn Veit
Marianne Woodward

- 28 Richard Farrand
Tilly Fontaine
Allison Sigdestad

- 29 Robert Beeman
Iris Gerber-Ward
Deb Hempelman
Courtney Jacobs
Kirsten Jensen
Tom Levy
Holly Massie

- 30 Oliver Buol

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