

Compassion in Action with our Neighbors (CAN) invites you to participate in a Summer of Service



This summer
CAN Ministry
invites
Augustana
members and
friends to join
in a focus on
volunteering!

Turn to page 14
for opportunities
to volunteer and
to learn how
CAN Ministry
will be counting
your volunteer
hours and your
in-kind gifts
to ministries
beyond
Augustana.



5000 E. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80246

Augustana

LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE: 303-388-4678
FAX: 303-388-1338

WEB: www.augustanadenver.org
EMAIL: info@augustanadenver.org
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, July 14, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the August edition.
Email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Congregation Council:

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

Lisa Boe-Sims	Heather Nelson
Betty Boyd	Nancy Nyhus
CJ Brown	Will Smith
Janet Flesch	Inez Smith
Jayne Howard	Dan Taron
Pr. Ann Hultquist	Pr. Caitlin Trussell
Heidi Johnson	Karen Yeager
Ellen Kastens	

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**, Custodian
- **Ellen Kastens**, **Amy Tamminga**, **Erin Saboe Willoughby**, Wedding Coordinators
- **Wendie Edwards**, Director, Augustana Early Learning Center

Recently lifted up in prayer

for hope and healing:

- Arvid Brekke
- Jane Carlstrom
- Matthew and Ida Carlstrom
- Lindy Copeland
- Madeline and Theo Fasano
- Diane Gaites
- Daniel Hammond
- Charlie Hanes
- Don and Betty Hein (brother of Doug Hein)
- Randine Hughes
- Judy Kessenich
- David Mohs
- Betty Nyby
- Phil Nehiley
- Ben Pepper
- Larry Sweetzer
- Don Thomson
- Tony Ward

for comfort and courage:

- Paul Blanchard in the death of his brother, Dave Blanchard
- Mira Hodzic in the death of her mother, Milica Cuvrk
- Family and friends of Joseph Gay in his death
- Family and friends of Pastor Susan Lynch in her death



“Have You Thanked the Lord Today?” is the title of a gospel song, but is also a great question for all of us in these summer days. As the rhythm of our lives changes in these months, take time to give thanks for all that you’ve received, and find ways to respond by caring for others and the world God made. That’s **Grace in Action!**

God is gracefully generous, and we—children of God created in the image of God—are born to be gracefully generous, too. Not because we “should,” but because graceful generosity is a beautiful delight—and because it’s who we really are!

With thanks, Augustana’s Stewardship Committee:
Nick Massie, Greta Devol, Bill Crossen, Ben Pepper, and Pastor Ann

Rejoice with

- Eloise Patricia Wolfe, daughter of Drew and Samantha Wolfe, in her baptism
- Tiffany Choi and George Owusu in their marriage, June 11
- Parents Ross and Lauren Kastens, and grandparents Jamie and Ellen Kastens in the birth of Quincey Tate Kastens, May 26
- Doug Hein in the birth of his great-granddaughter, Aubrielle Kristine Conover, May 10

“The Church is not dying, the Church is changing.”



That mantra is one that we've heard many times over the last few years, and one that we'll likely hear many times more in the future. Like everything else in our world and our culture, faith communities are being shaped, molded, and sometimes squeezed

to better respond and serve. (You can read more about this in the article about the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly on page 4.)

For many congregations, this means looking at ministries or programs and being willing to experiment and try new things, stepping forward in faith. It is not an easy process, because most of us don't get very excited about change. It's also difficult, because sometimes when everything is changing around us, we want our congregation to stay the same. But if we want our community to remain vital, we need to be willing to embrace innovation and transformation.

Augustana is finding ways to do that while staying faithful to the Gospel which is all about the grace of Jesus for everyone. Our Sunday Faith Formation for kids has changed its shape; Social Ministry has morphed into the nimble and broad CAN

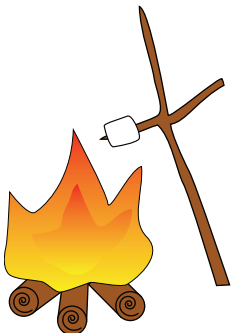
If we want our community to remain vital, we need to be willing to embrace innovation and transformation.

Ministry; Deacon Shanna is continuing a “right-sized” ministry with youth, children, and families; Music Ministry has opened up to new people and new schedules; and we've supported donating land and partnering with Habitat for Humanity. None of these changes came without a lot of thought, and some have had pinch points. I am grateful for our staff and for our congregation's willingness to move forward with faith. As one of our prayers says: “Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Walking the Way together,

Pastor Ann

Pastor Caitlin's column is on [page 13](#) in this issue.



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! People of 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).

Highlights from the 2022 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in Loveland, May 9–11



From left: Pastor Caitlin, Michael Zumwalt, Pastor Ann, Jon Morgenthaler, Karen Morgenthaler

Following a disruptive couple of years, the Rocky Mountain Synod was able to have its annual assembly meeting in person once again. The theme was “Rhythm of the Saints: finding the beat for ministry and service in post-Covidian times.” The primary purpose of this meeting was for “the sake of renewal and encouragement to continue the work of ministry.”

There were just over 300 people in attendance, with me, Karen and Jon Morgenthaler, and both Pastor Ann and Pastor Caitlin present as voting members from Augustana. Bishop Jim Gonia presided over the conference with the incredible assistance of his staff, including our very own Sarah Bjornebo and Kent Mueller. Jean Gall was also there, having co-

authored a resolution which the Augustana Council then agreed to co-sponsor, and was unanimously approved. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

This resolution was a call to all churches of the RMS for “Encouraging congregations to support local hunger ministries, increase awareness of hunger and poverty issues, and increase opportunities to financially support the work of ELCA World Hunger.” We see this affecting the other churches of RMS more than ourselves at Augustana, because we already do so much in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Aside from the regular assembly business of voting on resolutions, next year’s budget (2023), and voting for new members to the Synod Council, there were the following five topics presented in plenary sessions and reinforced in breakout sessions:



Classic Church— Church Becoming

“Explore contrasts between our life in the church as we know it (and often prefer it!) and our life as a church that is still being shaped by the Holy Spirit.”

Normalizing the Unexpected-

“A slow wade into conversations and engagement that will assist participants in recognizing biases and truly embracing Jesus’ command to ‘love one another as I have loved you.’”





“Leading takes **courage** because we have to be willing to consider ourselves honestly. Leading takes **resiliency** because we have to be willing to start again and again. Leading takes **faithfulness** because we have to learn how to see the world through God’s eyes. We have to learn how to love with God’s steadfast love.”

VRSM fits into our understanding of **Church Becoming** by asking congregations and leaders to become self-aware and adapt for a thriving future. VRSM provides tools for congregations and rostered ministers to review their congregational life, set a course for their future, and strengthen both rostered ministers and those with whom they serve for their journey ahead.



When we choose to intentionally journey toward purpose, meaning, and belonging in community and in who God is calling us to be . . . a mindset of abundance becomes the map, the path, and the prize!

My overall impression from the encouragements and church attitudes being promoted at this meeting was that Augustana is already actively involved in each of these areas. And as a relatively new member to Augustana, but with quite a bit of background in working with a variety of church denominations, I have come to realize that this commitment has largely been the result of effective leadership and excellent communication among staff, council, committees, and the congregation of this church. So, I took away from this meeting a sense of renewal, but also encouragement that Augustana is doing a good job overall in continually finding ways to better serve our members and our community.

Finally, let me mention the **Next Faithful Step Campaign**, on which we got an update on at the assembly meeting. The goal of this 3-year campaign is to raise \$1.57 million to support the following programs: **3E Lilly Grant; Excellence in Leadership; Messiah Mountain Retreat; Lutheran Center (renovation);** and a **Racial Justice Tithe**. The campaign is two-thirds of the way in fundraising, and we are already contributing through our Augustana Foundation. Find out more at <https://www.rmselca.org/next-faithful-step>.

Next year’s Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly will be held in El Paso, TX, May 16–18.

Michael Zumwalt

President of the Congregation
michael_zumwalt@agilent.com



Music Ministry

Some of you have asked me why I've changed the position of the organ console from where it was previously placed. (The console is where the organist sits to play the organ). On Ash Wednesday I presented chapel time with the students at the Augustana Early Learning Center. Since there are so many children in the program I thought it best to move the console to the center of the chancel (front) of the church so that the students could see easily while I demonstrated the instrument for them.

Not all organ consoles are movable. I'm grateful that this one is on casters and moves easily by one person. (However it's probably best to move it with two people so that one doesn't accidentally shove the console down the front steps of the chancel.) The console is connected to the organ with a large cable called an umbilical cord.

When preparing for my presentation for the students, I practiced and was surprised at how different the organ sounded compared to what I had heard in its previous location. When playing from the corner of the chancel facing the pulpit, I could only hear the choir and organ out of my right ear and the congregation out of my left ear. With the organ turned I can now hear organ, choir, and congregation out of both ears, and this

I can now hear organ, choir, and congregation out of both ears, and this makes playing much easier.

makes playing organ pieces and accompanying sung liturgy and hymns much easier. It was also very difficult to see members of the Augustana Vocal Ensemble on the psalms and their quartet anthems. I'd always have to hope they were in place at the right time, and that is a dangerous situation in service playing.

I had hoped to put the console straight in its current location so that I'd be facing the lectern (where the Bible and prayers are read from), but the floor is not completely even in that area, and the entire pedal board bounced when I played the lower portion of the pedals. For now I think this is the ideal location of the organ console, so that I can hear and see better in worship.

Grace and peace,
Andy

Chancel Choir members perform in London premier!



Back row from left: Sheryl Kamicar, Gail Jacobs, Marcia Olson, Sarah Graham, Emily Murdock, Finley Zumwalt, Alayna Nelson, Michael Zumwalt, Matt Kingham, Blake Nawa`a, Ken Sandlian, and Jake Jansen
Front row from left: Lynn Veit, Sonja Engebretson, Valarie Sandlian, Rhonda Crossen, Ruth Connors, Pam Midboe, and Angela Howard

Eight choral groups—three from the UK and five from the US—including members and friends of Augustana’s Chancel Choir—joined together to perform *Tuvayhun – Beatitudes for a Wounded World* at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea, London.

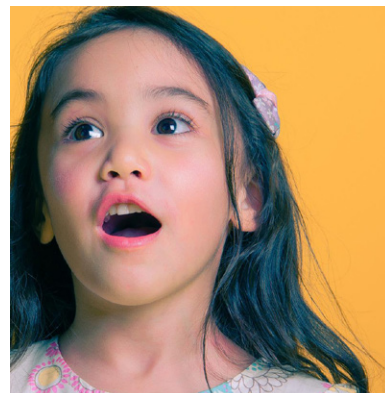
The May 30 performance was the UK premier, following the first premier in the US in 2018. It is a beautiful piece consisting of 10 movements representing the Beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, with a modern-day application. Tuvayhun is Aramaic for “blessing,” and what a blessing for all of us to have been part of this. Perhaps we’ll be able to perform it someday at Augustana, but we’ll see.

It was also fortunate that we got to be in London during the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, celebrating 70 years on the throne. Highlights that many of us

were able to enjoy included watching the parade, seeing the military formations at Buckingham Palace from the Eye, watching the military flyover of helicopters and jets, as well as enjoying a very smooth ride on the brand new Elizabeth Line of the Underground “Tube” metro system.

A special thank you goes to the Augustana Foundation, Music Ministry, and a few of our choir members in helping make this trip possible through donations. We were very fortunate to have Emily Murdock and Blake Nawa`a from Augustana’s AVE attend with us and help us prepare through several rehearsals under the direction of Angela Howard. An additional debt of gratitude to Angela for coordinating the whole trip.

Michael Zumwalt
Chancel Choir Member



Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Music Ministry and Children, Youth and Family Ministry are excited to announce a new season of growing, blowing, ringing, and singing!

Check out our NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE for Faith Formation and Youth Music Ministry starting September 18—with a new ensemble added!

9–9:30 a.m.

- Cherub Choir (pre-Kindergarten through grade 2)
- Choristers (choir for grades 3–5)
- Chancel Handbells (grades 6–12)

9:30–10:15 a.m.

- GIFT (Pre-Kindergarten–grade 4)
- Confirmation (grades 5–8)
- Breakfast Club (grades 9–12)

11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

- Sunday Lunch for all

Noon–12:45 p.m.

- Cantabile (choir for grades 6–12)
- Chapel Ringers (handbells for grades 4–5)
- Recorder Ensemble (grades 2–3)

12:45–1:15 p.m.

- Augustana Instrumental Ensemble
(This group will meet periodically during the year and play with hymns and service music during worship.)

Help us plan by registering today!

Find online registrations forms at <https://www.augustanadenver.org/faith-formation-registration/>.

Faith Formation volunteers welcome!

Children Youth and Family Ministry welcomes your teaching spirit! If you are interested in sharing your guiding words, listening ears, and joy with kids of any age, please connect with **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107). Opportunities to serve during faith formation time as well as one time events are available.

Bible Presentation for kids in Kindergarten and 3rd grade

As part of our milestone ministries at Augustana, all Kindergarten and 3rd grade students are invited to receive a Bible on Sunday, August 28 at 10:30 a.m. worship. RSVP to **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) with your child's name and grade by Monday, August 15. Those receiving their Bibles and their family members are also encouraged to celebrate at Coffee Hour that day, starting at 9:15 a.m.

Mark your calendars for a Back-to-School blessing!

Augustana will share a Back-to-School Blessing at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship, Sunday, August 14, for students of all grades and institutional levels. If you have a backpack, bring it along. Plan to come up during that part of worship, so we can pray for you and give you some backpack bling!

Study/Fellowship

Swedish Smörgåsbord returns!

The **Swedish Club of Denver** will once again hold a delicious Smörgåsbord Dinner at Augustana's Fellowship Hall, Saturday, September 24, 2022. Proceeds from this event support the Academic Scholarship Fund of the Swedish Club.

Additional details will follow. For updates, visit www.swedishclubofdenver.org.

Join the Augustana Early Learning Center community for a 4th of July Celebration!

Friday, July 1, Quist Park

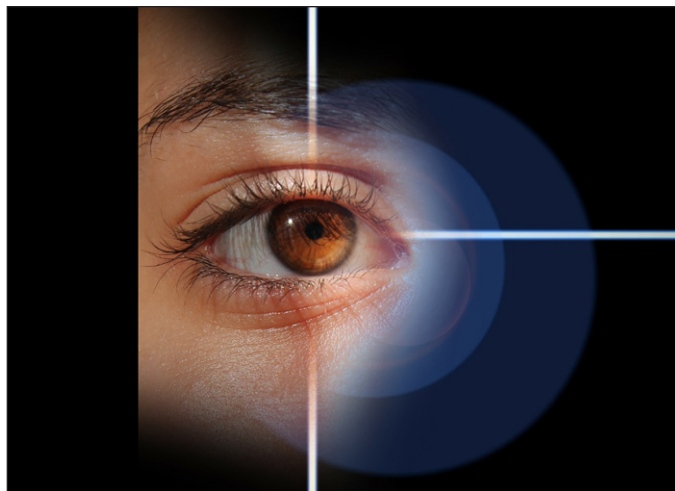
(by Augustana's south parking lot)

Food will be served 6:30–8 p.m.

City of Glendale fireworks begin at 9 p.m.

- Bring blankets or lawn chairs.
- Purchase burgers, hot dogs, chips, baked goods and drinks.
- Please bring cash. We will also offer a Venmo payment option.
- Proceeds support Augustana Early Learning Center's Capital Improvement Fund.

All are welcome!



Countering Active Threat Training

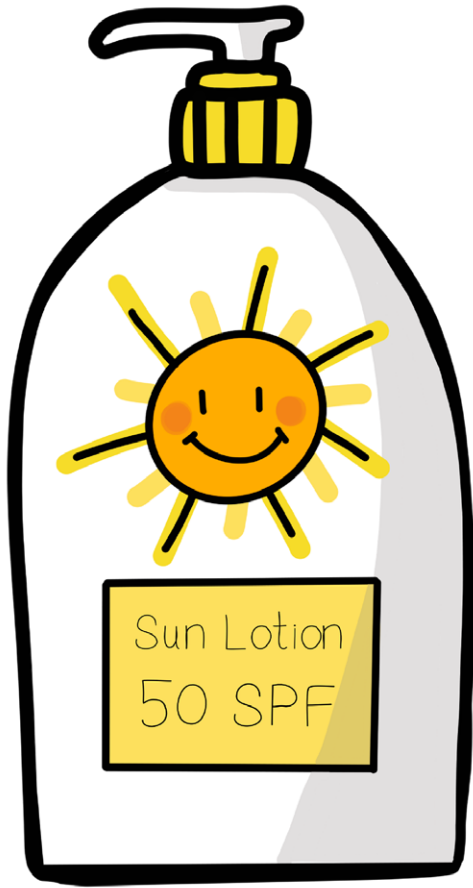
Saturday, July 9, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Get Involved. Get Empowered. Get Trained.

This training is designed to teach us how to respond to an active threat event.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Augustana's office (macdougall@augustanadenver.org, or 303-388-4678).

July is UV Safety Awareness Month



During the sunny summer months, a lot of emphasis is placed on protecting our skin and eyes from ultraviolet (UV) rays. Fortunately, there are things you can do to minimize the risk that comes with sun exposure.

Cover Up

Wearing a hat (preferably wide brimmed) or other shade-protective clothing can partly shield your skin from the harmful effects of UV ray exposure. Proper clothing may include long-sleeved shirts, pants, hats, and sunglasses—for eye protection.

Stay in the Shade

The sun's glare is most intense at midday. Staying in the shade between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. will further protect your skin. The sun

can still damage your skin on cloudy days or in the winter. For this reason, it is important to stay protected throughout the year.

Choose the Right Sunscreen

This is extremely important. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new regulations for sunscreen labeling recommend that your sunscreen have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, and should protect against both Ultraviolet A (UV-A) and Ultraviolet B (UV-B) rays.

Use the Right Amount of Sunscreen

According to the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention, most people apply only 25–50 percent of the recommended amount of sunscreen. When out in the sun, it's important that you apply at least one ounce (a palmful) of sunscreen every two hours. You should apply it more often if you are sweating or swimming, even if the sunscreen is waterproof.

By taking the proper precautions and following this advice, you and your loved ones can enjoy the sun. If you are having any problems after being in the sun, be sure to talk to your healthcare provider.

Enjoy the outdoors this summer, and remember to protect your eyes and the skin you're in!

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.

The 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 percent of UV rays can penetrate clouds on a cloudy day!
- how many feet of elevation causes a loss of 5 percent 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://rmsunscreen.com/>), and will provide blood pressure checks as well.

E4 in July—JFF! (JUST FOR FUN!)

Balancing work and play is an important component of a healthy mind and body connection. Summer fun is such a welcome part of longer and warmer daylight hours. You are invited to join our E4 Mental Health Ministry Team for a July social gathering, JFF!

E4 Mental Health Ministry Team will meet at Augustana, Thursday, July 14, 7 p.m., and walk to Inga's at 5151 Leetsdale Drive. Gather with us to walk, or meet us at Inga's. Happy and healthy summer months to you!

Thursday, August 11 at 7 p.m. will be our next working meeting in Augustana's Ammerman Library.

The mission of E4 is to Enlighten, Encourage, Educate, and Empower individuals and families about mental health in a faith-based community.

Habitat Dakota Townhome Project Update

Like so many good things, this housing project with Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver takes time! On May 18, the City of Denver Planning Board held a virtual hearing. Lending support for the project were Kory from Habitat, Pastor Caitlin, Michael Zumwalt, Katrina Crook, and Greg Hempelman. Augustana members offered concise and heartfelt testimony which emphasized the congregation's mission to serve the community, and the Board unanimously approved the project!

The next steps involve several more City of Denver meetings, with a final hearing before the City Council on July 25. **Please attend the Congregational Meeting on Sunday August 28, 11:45 a.m. to hear an update with Kory Whitaker from Habitat.** Step by step we are fulfilling Augustana's Core Value of Go: *We build relationships with others in our community and our world. We seek out ways to serve and love as Jesus did. We live out our faith in daily life.*

Senior Ministry

Fraud and Scam Prevention Training



Augustana's Senior Ministry Team and Home Instead Home Care are co-sponsoring two opportunities for Fraud and Scam Prevention Training for adults 60+ and their families and caregivers. **Lynn Lowe**, Senior Resource Navigator, City and County of Denver Police Department, is the presenter .

This training will focus on these three objectives:

1. Realize how anyone can be a victim of a scam.
2. Discover how to recognize red flags and prevent victimization.
3. Learn what to do if you have been scammed.

When and where—two options:

- Thursday, July 28, 5:30–6:30 p.m. at Home Instead Training Center, Evans and Quebec (2095 S. Pontiac Way, Denver 80224). RSVP to Kristindahlquist@homeinstead.com or 303-389-5700
- Wednesday, August 17, 10–11 a.m. at Augustana's Fellowship Hall (5000 E. Alameda, Denver 80246)

Questions? Contact Sue Ann (303-388-4678 or glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org).

Why attend this training?

Scams are ever-evolving and can be highly-sophisticated scenarios that seem plausible. With scam attempts and victim numbers on the rise, it is important to understand the science behind the scam and why scammers are successful. Most scam crimes are not prosecutable, so prevention is key. There are multiple types of scams, and scammers can often be relentless. The best way we can protect ourselves is to learn and recognize the red flags. Knowing what to look for and knowing what support is available is the best way to keep your information and money safe.

We will discuss phone scams, phishing scams, and online safety as well as what to do if you have been scammed.

Hope you can join us for this important educational event.

Refreshments will be served at both locations!

Pastor Caitlin

We CAN do it! (P.C.'s roles 2:4)



One thing I've learned about new ministries is that taking the time for groups to name themselves is a cool process and that the name I had in my mind is not the one that gets chosen—humbling as

a wordsmith but oh so satisfying as a pastor. Three years ago, several ministries combined to form **Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry** as part of the Strategic Plan to better coordinate Augustana's local and global impact. The process wasn't without its growing pains. The naming discussions alone took several months. Finally, though, it happened. A name was crafted to best reflect the work and vision of the ministry team.

There was a lot of excitement about the full name and acronym "CAN" that can be used as a noun (CAN Ministry) and as a verb (We CAN do it!). There was serious consideration given to the "with" in the name as well. Coordinating efforts WITH Augustana's ministry partners and affected people aligns with the ELCA's value of accompaniment—working alongside folks most affected by any particular issue. CAN is blessed by **Laura Libby's** leadership as the ministry chairperson.

I'm grateful that CAN Ministry is part of my pastoral leadership here. CAN gives hands and feet to Jesus' second greatest commandment. The first? Love God. The second? Love your neighbor as yourself (Mt 22, Mk 12, Luke 10). CAN leads the congregation in giving immediate assistance, like with our Sanctuary Soup Shelf, and also takes action by advocating in the "public square" for systemic solutions to people's problems. CAN's advocacy commitment generated the ministry experiment of Human Dignity Delegates last year,

**CAN gives hands
and feet to Jesus'
second greatest
commandment:
Love your neighbor
as yourself.**

working on legislative and ballot initiatives as well as anti-racism efforts and led by co-chairs **Beth Black** and **Katy Lunsford**.

So much more could be said about this congregation's commitment to Jesus' second greatest commandment. Suffice it to say, "We CAN do it!"

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin

This note is part of 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*

Compassion in Action with our Neighbors (CAN)

CAN Ministry invites you to participate in a Summer of Service

This summer, Augustana's CAN Ministry invites Augustana members and friends to join in a focus on volunteering. CAN Ministry leaders discussed how being in service can help right-size ourselves during anxious times. We are coordinating a few congregational opportunities throughout the coming months, but also want to recognize that volunteering looks different for everyone.

Your volunteer hours count!

CAN Ministry asks you to track and submit your volunteer hours this summer. We are looking to collect hours between June 1 and September 11. Many people in the congregation have regular service efforts, and we want to know those as well as offer some group activities. The service hours will be totaled and celebrated in a special recognition during worship.

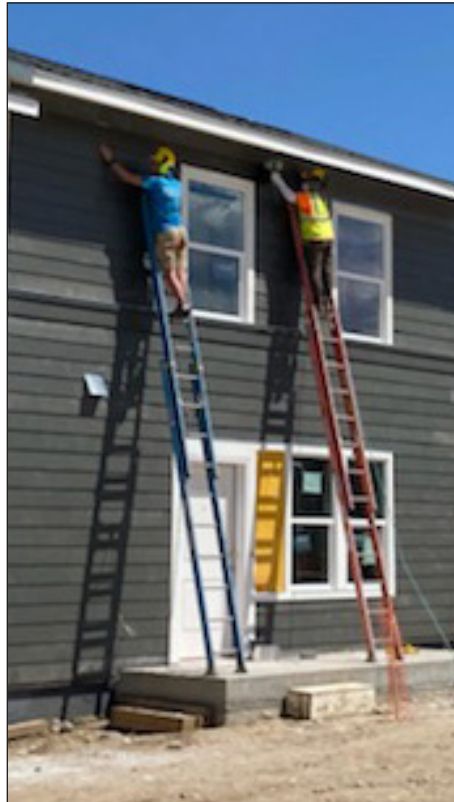
Opportunities to volunteer

School Backpacks for Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

Deadline for donations: Sunday, July 10
Support children in foster care and refugee kids by donating new backpacks and school supplies to start off their school year. (See page 15 for details.)
When you donate in-kind items, please record these on the Summer of Service online form or worship slip.

Metro Caring Group Volunteering

Tuesdays, July 12 and August 9, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Ten spots are available each day for the Metro Caring facilities at 1100 E. 18th Avenue in Denver.



Watch for sign-up information in the coming weeks. Volunteers need to be at least 15 years old.

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver/Holy Hammers

Saturdays, July 23, August 20, September 17

Help build Habitat for Humanity homes at the Aria Homes site! Each date offers space for 10 volunteers, 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sign up online at least two weeks in advance of each date through this link: <http://holyhammers.denver.volunteerhub.com/>. To learn more, contact **Michael Zumwalt** (303-907-6305 or michael_zumwalt@agilent.com).

Augustana Soup Shelf donations

In the summer, food donations can fall off a bit, so we invite you to donate hearty soups, canned fruit, canned chicken and tuna to the Sanctuary Soup Shelf. When you donate in-kind items, please record these on the Summer of Service online form or worship slip.

"God's work. Our hands."

Sunday, September 11, 9:15 a.m. at Augustana
Help repackage rice and beans between services for our partners at Metro Caring. This Sunday will serve as the end of our Summer of Service focus.

Augustana has always been a congregation who steps up to support our neighbors locally and across the world. Keep an eye out for more suggestions and opportunities to carry the gospel with our hands and feet.



Help provide backpacks for LFSRM Foster Care and Refugee Children

Deadline: July 10

Thank you for supporting the mission of **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains** to provide our children in foster care and our refugee kids with their own new backpack and school supplies to start a successful school year.

Based on your donations in previous years, where Augustana collected the astonishing amount of 25–38 backpacks (wow!), here is the list for 25 backpacks (**Middle School/Male**) for Augustana this year! And as always, gift cards—especially for Walmart or Target—are always a huge help to fill the last missing items.

Here are a few notes to ensure a smooth operation of the 500 backpacks LFSRM will need to collect this year:

1. Please use the attached tag to label all backpacks with the appropriate age group/gender. (Note: the tags are best attached to the backpack's top handle for consistent identification.)
2. Please buy exactly what is specified on the lists, or simply provide gift cards for the items (Walmart and Target are best), as any additional or differing items are very hard to distribute in an operation of this size.
3. Finally, due to the extremely short staffed operation, the extremely high volume of backpacks in need of distribution, and the earlier school-year start in many counties, **the deadline for contributions is July 10**. Please leave your items or completed backpack in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



Summer book invitation from Augustana's Human Dignity Delegates (HDDs)

There's time to start reading the HDD summer book choice as we continue to work on and learn about issues of human dignity through the lens of faith. *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. 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, 9:15–9:45 a.m. (so folks can still sing in the ad hoc Summer Choir that morning), 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.



All of Augustana rejoiced with Asmir, Sanja, and Mira Hodzic as they took their oath of U.S. citizenship on May 28, 2008. Read on to hear what they have to say about their homeland, their transition to American life, and their feelings about Augustana.

Luck follows Hodzic family from Yugoslavia to Denver

Friday the thirteenth—the day of this interview—is a day Asmir and Mira Hodzic view as lucky.

***Editor's Note:** Last month's Tower shared the refugee stories of **Azra Beganovic** and **Yuliya Stolyar**. This month we're rerunning a story from the July 2008 Tower about Augustana's Building and Grounds Manager **Asmir Hodzic** and his family, with an update about what's happening in the family's lives 14 years later.*

They began dating on Friday the thirteenth, and on Friday the thirteenth Mira began working as a chef in Augustana's Early Learning Center.

Becoming U.S. citizens
May 28, 2008 is another day that holds great

meaning for them. That's the day Seki (pronounced Sheckee), Mira, and their daughter Sanja took their oath of American citizenship. They were sworn into citizenship at the convention center in Denver

along with 1,800 other people, all of whom had additional family and friends there to offer support and congratulations. The Hodzics are thankful for the people from Augustana who came to support them that day:

Steve and Neila Frisch, Bruce and Julene Campbell, Ken and Kay Madsen, Malise de Bree, and Sheryl Stenseth. “It was a long, fun day,” said Seki.

Seki and Mira explain the naturalization process. “After one year, a refugee attains permanent status. After five years, you can apply for citizenship. You have to have a good background and learn about American government and American history.” The application process costs \$400 per person—up until July 2008 when the fee goes up to \$600. Applicants are asked ten questions, and if they answer six out of the ten correctly, they pass. They’re also tested on their ability to read and write. All the questions asked on the written application are also asked verbally, which, Mira points out, is a barrier for some immigrants if they can’t understand what’s being asked.

Coming from the homeland

Originally from Bosnia (or Yugoslavia, which they frequently refer to as “our country”), Seki, Mira, and Sanja emigrated from Prijedor, Bosnia to Serbia, then to Greece, finally arriving in the United States in July 1996. Although they didn’t arrive on Friday the thirteenth, they still count that day as lucky. The very airplane they arrived on became the ill-fated TWA flight 800 which exploded over the Atlantic Ocean soon after its departure from New York. One of Seki and Mira’s first experiences in Colorado was being questioned by the FBI about their flight experience. “They asked, ‘Did you see anything? Did you smell anything? Did you see anyone with a computer? Did you

bring a bomb over from Bosnia?’” They weren’t really suspects, Seki explains. The FBI asked these questions to everyone who had been on the flight.

Adjusting to US life

Once in the US, “Everything was different. Really different,” says Seki. Like the language, for example. In addition to speaking their native Serbo-Croatian, Seki had studied German and Mira, Russian, but the only English they knew was a few words they had picked up from movies. They had one month of English classes at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School before they felt they had to find work. They had arrived with only \$50.

Joining the work force

Leah Peden and Seki’s brothers Nermin and Samir helped them find work to pay for their furnished apartment. (In Bosnia, Seki was an electrician and Mira was a civil engineer.) They worked hard, at one point doing three different jobs. One of their jobs was doing yard work. They weren’t used to the much-hotter weather of Colorado and didn’t know to wear hats and sunscreen while working outdoors. They also worked as bussers at a restaurant in the Denver Zoo. Asmir also worked for a company called Shafer doing assembly work on items like tables and chairs.

Working at Augustana

Mira worked for a window covering company that is now out of business. She had just received a raise there when Leah asked Mira if she would be interested in working as a cook at a day care. At that time it was advantageous for Mira because Sanja was just starting school, and their hours at home would be similar.

Another big change for them was the food. Mira shares, “Chimichangas would be on the Early Learning Center menu. I’d wonder, ‘What is a chimichanga?’ We did not have Mexican food in our country.” Mira would go study the frozen food at Costco to get an idea of what unfamiliar food looked like.

Severe back pain prevented Seki from continuing his work at Shafer, possibly a work-related injury.

Refugee Resettlement: An Update

Discussions continue about how best Augustana can support refugee resettlement. A few people have come forward to discuss the possibility of how to lead the congregation’s direct involvement with a refugee family or two through our Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry. Please stay tuned for further updates.

Leah asked Seki if he would be interested in doing custodial work at Augustana. Seki agreed, and Leah helped him fill out the application. Seki was interviewed by Thom Dorr and Interim Pastor Charles Berdahl and was hired. He started working at Augustana in 2000 with Bill Fritts as his supervisor. Seki learned a lot from Bill even though he had difficulty understanding his Arkansas accent.

What about Sanja?

When she was younger, Sanja participated in Vacation Bible School and Sunday School at Augustana and enjoyed teachers Dena Williams and Bob Black. Now she has just finished her first year of college at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She's enjoying college and is interested in Biology. At the time of this interview, she was visiting San Antonio, Texas, with friends. She's been working at a candy store in Park Meadows Mall, but will start a new job at the Park Meadows Macy's upon her return from Texas.

Talking about faith . .

Seki says he didn't think much about religion or faith. "Until war," he adds. He tells about one black, dark night, during the war—"the darkest night of my life"—when his unit's situation was not good,

and everybody was ordered to retreat or escape. Out of 4,000 people, 70 stayed to fight including Seki. For three days they stayed, fought, and held the line. Finally his army began to come back and give them support. "During that time, you were just waiting, thinking that you're going to die, and I started to pray. I had never prayed before in my life. Never, never. Something changed."

Although he doesn't call it "God" exactly, Seki believes there is a higher power. He credits this higher power with saving him and his family from countless near-miss encounters with death during the conflict in Bosnia and on the flight to the US. "I'm lucky," Seki says as Mira nods emphatically.

And Augustana is lucky to have the friendship and devotion of the Hodzic family.

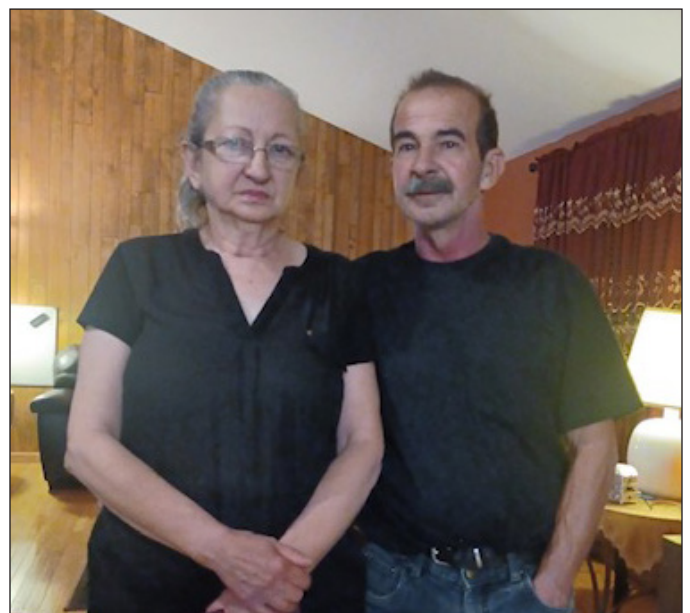
"Thanks, Augustana!"

Seki gave strict instructions to pass along their gratitude. Thanks to the staff and everyone else at Augustana for cards, balloons, parties, encouragement, and congratulations upon their becoming US citizens. They feel blessed to be here, and they appreciate the opportunities they've had.

Fourteen years later . . .

Seki is still working as Building and Grounds Manager at Augustana. During his off hours, he works side jobs and enjoys watching news and sports on television, especially the Nuggets, the Avalanche, the Broncos, and tennis player Novak Djokovich, who is from Belgrade, Serbia. Seki used to play soccer and was the goalie. He tells a joke about a mother who had two sons: one was smart—and the other was a goalie!

Mira is working part-time, cooking at Lifecare Center of Aurora, while she continues treatment for breast and kidney cancer.





Always the entrepreneur, **Sanja** has her own hairstyling salon—Sanja Hodzic Hair Services at Evans and University. Since the 2008 article, Sanja added one more to the family when her son, Blaze, was born.

Blaze is the heart of the Hodzic family and turns 13 on June 24. In the fall he'll be a 7th grader at Horizon Middle School, where he regularly makes the honor roll. Blaze enjoys parkour jumping, and came in 6th place in a Colorado parkour competition. He also enjoys Legos, computer games, and engineering.

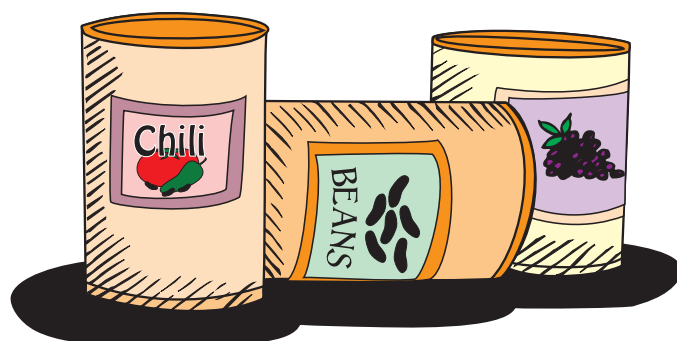
Your Thrivent policy can stock our Soup Shelf!

The Sanctuary Soup Shelf, Augustana's unique community outreach, continues to be important for our neighbors who are "food insecure." For those of us who have a Thrivent insurance policy, there is an opportunity using the Thrivent Action Team program.

Process:

1. Go to your Thrivent account.
2. Go to membership overview.
3. Go to Thrivent Action Teams.
4. Then go to Learn More, and apply.

We have received several Action Team Grants for our Sanctuary Soup Shelf. The grant amount is \$250 on a Thrivent Gift credit card to purchase food. We are willing to answer your questions and support you through the application process, which is relatively simple. Let us know when you are approved, so we can coordinate the action teams. Contact **Jean and Duane Gall** (303-913-3083). Contact Thrivent (800-847-4836 or [thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com)).





Welcome Connection

Progress on signage and name tags

The name tag funding proposal has been presented to the Augustana Foundation and is awaiting their decision. We have received the new electronic sign size parameters and lighting regulations from the City of Denver. The next step will be working with Garry Garcia regarding the financing and the bid process. We are still looking for guidance from the city on the proposed visitor parking signs in the north parking lot. Our group is also eagerly awaiting the Augustana Marketing Plan, which is being crafted by our own **Roger Lipker**.

As always, if you have visions, thoughts or suggestions for our group, or if you would be interested in joining us on our journey, do not hesitate to contact one of us: **Erin Saboe, Nancy Johnson, Nancy Nyhus (Council), Ellen Kastens (Council), Brad Uyemura (Chair), and Pastor Caitlin**.

Name tags are here!

Why order an Augustana name tag?

- Name tags are welcoming.
- Name tags invite conversation.
- Name tags help us remember one other.

How to request your name tag

Order online at <https://www.augustanadenver.org/augustana-name-tag/>. Or, use a pew offering envelope from the pew and indicate "Name Tag" on the outside. Optional: a donation of \$8/each to cover the cost of the name tags.

Be sure to legibly write the first and last names of how your family members' names should appear on the name badges. Name tags may be picked up from the narthex on Sunday morning or from Augustana's office.

AUGUSTANAARTS



Gossamer Winds

Friday, July 9, 7 p.m., Augustana's Courtyard

Gossamer Winds comes to Augustana's courtyard for "Songs of Summer & Love," the next event in the Relax and Unwind: Summer Courtyard Concert Series. Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket and enjoy this summer concert in the courtyard at Augustana Lutheran Church. Flex pay (pay what you choose), or just come for a relaxing evening under the stars.

Tickets and information: [AugustanaArts.org](https://www.augustanaarts.org).

Encounter Stratus


Sunday, July 24, 2 p.m., Augustana's Fellowship Hall

Stratus Chamber Orchestra returns for an immersive concert with our new Music Director, **Adam Torres**. Free for the community and church members! Enjoy the music of "Metamorphosis." Experience Stratus up close for this special concert for the community!

Tickets and information: [AugustanaArts.org](https://www.augustanaarts.org).



JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:45am Augustana 11am Firm Believers 7pm Bulletin Assembly City of Glendale Fireworks	2
3 Pentecost 4 Health Ministry Sunday 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	4 Independence Day 	5 9am Library Committee	6 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6:30pm S'more Fun & Worship	7	8 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly 7pm Augustana Arts: Relax and Unwind	9 10:30am Countering Active Threat Training
10 Pentecost 5 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	11 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	12	13 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6:30pm S'more Fun & Worship	14 7pm The Tower deadline Health Ministry E4 Mental Health	15 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	16
Vacation Bible School July 11-14 9am-4pm						
17 Pentecost 6 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	18 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	19 4:30pm Yoga 7pm Congregation Council	20 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6:30pm S'more Fun & Worship	21	22 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	23
24 Pentecost 7 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion 1pm Augustana Foundation 2pm Augustana Arts: Encounter Stratus	25 7:30am Foot Care Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	26	27 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm S'more Fun & Worship 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group 6:30pm S'more Fun & Worship	28 5:30pm Fraud Prevention Training	29 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	30
31 Pentecost 8 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Fellowship/Coffee 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion						

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Place mailing label here

JULY Birthdays

- 1** Brandon Berguin
Kandace Carter
Dallas Jensen
- 2** Ward Anderson
Jean Gottenborg
Bob Johnson
Theovina Situmorang
- 3** Merrill Fie
Deborah Penn
Bailey Squire
Megan Wood
- 4**
- 5** Sandi Bair
Diane Voss
Ed Wichert
- 6** Gianna Giordano
Lisa Mikolajcak
Katelyn Schneider
Al Spies
- 7** Matt Lomax
Caroline Stratton
- 8** Bridget Anderson
Sharon Ferlic
Jonas Fontaine
Eric Milliken
Ekaterina Olson
Shipyatsky

- 9** Anna Blanchard
Catherine Clark
Julie Shellhorn
Carola Theiss
- 10** Cathy Anderson
Kaylyn Sorensen
Shawn Zwigart
- 11** Emily Crawford
Macgregor Cawford
Carol Parker
- 12** Ann Craig
Beth Nelson
- 13** Annabella
Brotherston
- 14** Victoria Clark
Kevin Flesch
Jamie Kastens
Jessie Keegan
Jon Morgenthaler
Michael Zumwalt
- 15** Maile Blair
Karen Bourg
Abbigale Kindley
Arlys Schneider
Larry Tucker

- 16** Sofia Aarestad
Hosanna Earl
Paul Gilbertson
Bob Ireland
Kari Kusek
- 17** Joshua Hempelman
Gay Hoag
Jack Kusek
Grey Lomax
Elise Nemechek
- 18** LC Castellari
Rebecca Egan
Iris Epperson
- 19** Elsa Buhr
Lydia King
Dale Penny
Lilian Stavig
Julia Stone
- 20** Emma Bolt
- 21** Natalie Braqmmmer
Shelley Seaholm
Everett Smith
Bryan Squire
- 22** Jane Gregory
Andrew McHattie
Darlene Stone
- 23** Phyllis Gilbertson
Jeff Nesheim
Lukas Zeckser
- 24** Curt Brogren
Anders Engdahl
Katy Ireland

- 25** Dean Ducnuigeen
Craig Gaite
Dick Kah
Kaden Kroll
- 26** John Bickle
Sophie Nick
- 27** Shirley Cunniff
Nicole Graham
- 28** Danchau Castellari
Ronald Lambert
Cathy Miller
- 29** Michael Blaschke
Alana Hankins
Julian Keegan
Don Troike
- 30** Andrew Bernhard
- 31** Malise de Bree
Krista Rahe
Brian Shellhorn

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