

Welcome our new Minister of Music and Organist!



The Music Search Committee is pleased to announce that Daniel Romero has accepted the position of Minister of Music and Organist at Augustana.

Daniel has recently received his Master's Degree in Organ Performance from DU. Raised as a Catholic, he has served as an Organist and Music Minister in Catholic and Episcopal congregations, so he is familiar with and loves liturgical worship. In addition, he has directed children's choirs and handbell choirs in his previous positions.

Raised in the Denver area, he is familiar with the reputation of Augustana's worship and music program and is excited to be a part of that long-standing tradition, including Augustana Arts.

The job description for the Minister of Music and Organist does not include directing the Chancel Choir. But in the present COVID-19 time when full choirs are not possible, he will be taking responsibility to help us discern what types of music can safely enrich our worship life together, including working with AVE.

You'll be able to hear Daniel's musical talent during our online worship, and "meet" him there as well. We welcome him to our staff and congregation!

Thanks to Augustana's Music Search Committee: Margaret Aarestad, Brian Bernhard, Linda Daniel, Michael Graham, Amy King, Tim Libby, Pastor Ann, and Pastor Caitlin.

Recently lifted up in prayer:

For hope and healing:

- Betsy Bernhard, Genevieve Bucklin, Richard Dannelley, Kari Degerness, Randy Degerness, Bobby Edwards, Lyn Goodrum, Dick Larson, Vernice Menth, Marianne Panella, Carol Perricone, Leigh Quist, Ethel Scott, Doug Tamminga

For comfort and courage:

- Family and friends of Marilyn Benson in her death
- Family and friends of Alma Erickson in her death
- Marcia Olson in the death of her friend, Bob Glassner
- Gay Hoag in the death of her husband, Lehman Hoag Jr.
- Melissa Keays in the

death of her father, George Keays

- Ruth Connors in the death of her friend, Gaspar Perricone

Rejoice with

- Matthias Henok Yohannes, son of Henok and Kisanet and brother of Fifi, in his baptism
- Reina Violet VanderWel, daughter of Ryan and Shanna and sister of Cora and Arlo, in her baptism

Thank you for the gifts!

Special Gifts

- In memory of Norm Aarestad, Paige Bartels, Alma Erickson

Health Ministry

- in honor of Michael Zumwalt and Randy Degerness



Worshiping and connecting at Augustana

Online worship

Augustana continues to offer online worship at 9 a.m. every Sunday on Augustana's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/>) and on our website (www.augustanadenver.org).

Mailed worship resources

Augustana members and friends have enjoyed bulletins, sermons, and news delivered weekly to their mailboxes. If you would like to be added to this mailing list, leave a message with Augustana's office (303-388-4678).

We Are One at 1:00

Augustana's staff continue to offer live devotions at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays on Augustana's Facebook page ([facebook.com/augustanadenver](https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver)). These are also available to view later on our Facebook page and on our website (www.augustanadenver.org).

Online Coffee Hour

Augustana's Zoom Coffee Hour meets Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Bring your coffee or tea, and catch up with Augustana friends. **Julie MacDougall** is your host. Watch for the Zoom invitation and link in the weekly e-Pistle.

5000 E. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80246

Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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EMAIL: info@augustanadenver.org
FACEBOOK: augustanadenver.com

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

Online Worship/Devotions (<https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/> or www.augustanadenver.org)

- **Online Worship**, Sundays, 9 a.m.
- **We Are One at 1:00**, Online devotions, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m.

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

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

Congregation Council: **President:** Lisa Boe-Sims | **Vice President:** Dane Vierow | **Secretary:** Karen Yeager | **Treasurer:** Dan Taron | Renee Bernhard | Grace Blanchard | Emmett Cruson | Michael Gentes | Michael Graham | Nancy Johnson | Ellen Kastens | Sharon Schillereff | Pam Uyemura | Rosalee Wanchisen | Ogden Willoughby | Michael Zumwalt | Pr. Ann Hultquist | Pr. Caitlin Trussell

Staff: **Ann Hultquist**, Senior Pastor | **Caitlin Trussell**, Pastor | **Lisa Mikolajczak**, Finance Administrator | **Shanna VanderWel**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry | **Valerie Taron**, Children's Faith Formation Coordinator | **Daniel Romero**, Minister of Music and Organist | **Angela Howard**, Choristers and Cantabile Director | **Sue Ann Glusenkamp**, Faith Community Nurse | **Lyn Goodrum**, Publications Administrator | **Julie MacDougall**, Volunteer Ministry and Building Use | **Asmir Hodzic**, Building and Grounds Manager | **Andrija Malbasa** and **Antoine Hines**, Custodians | **Ellen Kastens**, **Amy Tamminga**, **Erin Saboe Willoughby**, Wedding Coordinators | **Wendie Edwards**, Director, Augustana Early Learning Center

Pastor

Finding ways to connect



“It’s been fun to be with people in person!” That’s how Pastor Caitlin started one of her articles for the weekly e-Pistle last month. She was talking about our *Pastor in the Portico* and *Courtyard Conversations* series that we have been

experimenting with. A few months ago, that would have been a strange sentence to write or to read, but now we know all too well the feeling behind it, don’t we?

Having seen a variety of Augustana folks over Zoom the last three months, I have to agree that it was kind of incredible to see some of your faces (well, masked faces) at those small group meet-ups. Talking about how we were enduring, discussing a few Bible verses, and praying together was like cool water on a hot summer day.

It’s no wonder that for most people, these days of isolation have been difficult. God created us for relationship—with God and with one another. God came to us and comes to us in relationship—Jesus embodies God’s love and the Spirit sustains and guides us. We need one another! I hope that you are finding ways to connect with family, friends, neighbors, and the Augustana staff and community. If you need any support or just a friendly voice to talk with, don’t hesitate to contact a staff member.

**God created us for relationship—
with God and with one another.**

There are some things we can’t do just yet—share in worship or a meal or share a hug—but we can still care for one another and also

share and experience God’s love through others. We can listen to one another, encourage one another, and also pray for one another, as I hope you know we are doing for you.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Ann

Reserve your spot to hang out with the pastors, and stay tuned to e-Pistles for additional dates!

Pastors Ann and Caitlin invite you to sign up for an in-person, small group conversation led by a pastor and look forward to seeing you! **Masks required, and please bring your own chair.**

The hour includes checking in with each other and a Bible verse or two to discuss. No small children, please, as it’s not humanly possible to socially distance from the hugs and love of little ones.

You must sign up in advance to attend as the maximum group size is 10 people. Choose one date and time to attend. You can be wait-listed for a

second option. Please contact Julie (macdougall@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678) with the date you’d like to attend and your cell phone or land line number in case weather cancels our plans.

- **Pastor in the Portico** will be in the shade on the porch of the sanctuary, Monday, June 29, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
- **Courtyard Conversations** will be in the shade on the south lawn of the Memorial Garden, Wednesday, July 1, 6–7 p.m.

Pastor

The Good Samaritan and Black Lives Matter



The beaten man on the side of the road in the parable of the Good Samaritan is on my mind (Luke 10:25–37). The characters are particularly described as the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, and the half-dead, beaten man. Jesus

is often specific in his stories to disrupt the listeners’ assumptions and biases. In today’s slang, Jesus says that the half-dead, beaten man mattered. In the news, we hear that black lives matter. For some of us, this is a clarion call to confession as a part of the problem and to commit to working with our black neighbors so that they can live without fear or threat.

The Good Samaritan was moved to compassion for the half-dead man on the side of the road. He cleaned him up, took him to an inn, and paid for his ongoing care. Care and compassion are built into the most basic Lutheran teachings called the Small Catechism. For instance, in the Fifth Commandment, Thou Shall Not Kill, the catechism says that we’re not only guilty of breaking this commandment when we do evil to our neighbor but we break it when we fail to defend, protect, and prevent their bodily harm. Like the Good Samaritan, may we have eyes to see the pain, compassion to reach out in love, and courage to do the needed work so that black lives can do more than matter—they can thrive.

Feel free to contact me for conversation about this topic or simply to schedule time to connect more generally. My email is pastor.caitlin.trussell@gmail.com or call the office and leave a message (303-388-4678), and I’ll return your call. In the midst of viral pandemic and racial pain, there are a myriad of things happening that have nothing to do with either of them.

Peace, Pastor Caitlin



... but we break [the commandment] when we fail to defend, protect, and prevent their bodily harm

... but no matter the answer, it wouldn't have been good enough



Council President

Seeing yesterday again today

What happened to 2020? If someone would have told you last December about all the changes we have seen in the past four months, you wouldn't have believed it! The pandemic and most recently the protests after the death of George Floyd were seen on news outlets all over the world. The news of the virus has taken a backseat to the protests over Mr. Floyd's death.

The topic of racism has brought me back to vivid memories over the course of my life, as it probably has for many of you. My youngest memories are from visiting my maternal grandmother in Milwaukee in 1967. There had been protests in the streets, looting, fires in homes and businesses. The issues were much the same as we are facing today, 53 years later! African Americans were only allowed to live in certain neighborhoods, there was discrimination and segregation, and white politicians belonged to groups that only allowed white people. And there was the police brutality! On our visit, my grandmother drove us through the neighborhoods that had been looted and burnt while talking with disgust about "those people," and wondering why, but no matter the answer, it wouldn't have been good enough. I saw my grandmother as the exception to being a Lutheran. That is not the way I believe a human would behave.

I remember bussing in Denver Public Schools in order to create equal opportunities for all students. Not sure that test that lasted decades worked as desired, but at least there were kids of different skin colors in the same school. I remember the killing of Martin Luther King Jr. and the sadness that I felt at an early age but not understanding the issues or repercussions of his impactful death. I can't possibly understand what it is like to be black or brown. I believe that I learn more every day about the struggles that are real.

The way to move forward is not clear to me; however, we are on the edge of historical change. What I have witnessed is both parties are now talking about change using some of the same words, reaching across the aisle, and can actually agree on a few things. Thanks be to God! Pray for peace!

Lisa Boe-Sims

Health Ministry



We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers.
1 Thessalonians 1:2

Thank you for your vital work.



Appreciated for their vital work

Members of your Health Ministry Team delivered 47 yard signs to 55 Augustana members working during this pandemic as first responders, teachers, therapists, and mental health or health care workers. The signs expressed gratitude for the vital work of our members during these challenging days. A door hanger was also left explaining the gesture:

Please accept our most sincere thanks for your vital work as a teacher, first responder, mental health worker or health care worker. This yard sign is a small token of our appreciation for your dedication during these challenging pandemic days. Be confident we include you in our daily thoughts and prayers. Stay well and know that God's presence is with you each and every day.

*Blessings and Peace be with you,
Your Augustana Faith Community*

Every attempt was made to be inclusive, so please accept our apology if you are currently working in one of these roles and did not receive a yard sign. Please notify Sue Ann, our Faith Community Nurse, at glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org if you were missed, and be confident we are most grateful for your dedication.



▲ Robert Black was celebrating his retirement that week from many years of teaching!

▼ Angela Howard (teacher and our children's choir director) with her daughter, Izzi.



Nursing Notes from Sue Ann

#mentalhealth#suicide#conversation



In June I participated in a webinar sponsored by Pathways to Promise.

Pathways to Promise is an interfaith cooperative of many faith groups which was founded in 1988 by fourteen faith groups and mental health organizations to facilitate the faith community's work in reaching out to those with mental illnesses and their families. PATHWAYS is committed to creating an atmosphere in the faith and mental health communities which promotes recovery from mental illness and invites people with mental illnesses to enrich the community through actively sharing their gifts and interests (<https://www.pathways2promise.org/intro/>).

The webinar was a Leadership Forum focused on this topic: **Suicide: Prevention, Attempts & Recovery**. Colorado has an ongoing struggle with one of the nation's highest suicide rates. In fact, in 2019, Colorado's rate of teen suicide was the sixth worst state in the nation. This statistic almost doubles the national average. You can read more about these startling statistics at the links following this article.

These suicide statistics are a reality that we in our faith community cannot deny nor be afraid to discuss. A congregation can be the perfect safe place for authentic discussion about suicide. In the weeks to come, check out the e-Pistle and Facebook page. I will be writing about four areas related to suicide:

1. Language
2. Recognition
3. Response and
4. Resources

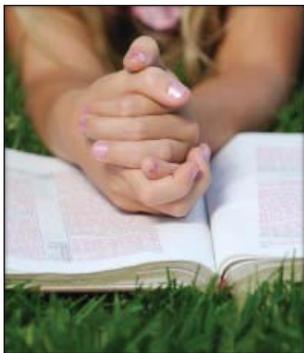
Talking about suicide prevention may initially be uncomfortable, my friends, but with God's grace and help from vetted resources, I am committed to having the conversations. Let's take this pandemic time to discover new ways to engage in difficult yet meaningful interactions. Feel free to contact me with your thoughts and/or questions (glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org).

Stay well and take note of this National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255.

Sue Ann, your Faith Community Nurse

- <https://www.cpr.org/2019/09/17/the-rate-of-teen-suicide-in-colorado-increased-by-58-percent-in-3-years-making-it-the-cause-of-1-in-5-adolescent-deaths/>
- <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/suicides-colorado-reach-all-time-high>

Children, Youth, Family



Bibles for Augustana's young people

If you are entering Kindergarten or 3rd or 5th grade this fall, Augustana has a Bible for you! Please email **Shanna** ([shanna@](mailto:shanna@augustanadenver.org)

[augustanadenver.org](mailto:shanna@augustanadenver.org)) with how you would like your name inscribed, then she will set up a drop-off date to bring you your Bible and a blessing in August.

Youth time in Quist Park

Youth entering grades 5–12 are invited to fellowship time with Shanna in Quist Park on Tuesdays, July 7 and 21, and August 4, 6–8 p.m. We will respect social distancing, and you are encouraged to wear a mask. Bring a lawn chair, water bottle, and any food you may want.

CAN Ministry (Compassion and Action with Our Neighbor)

CAN Ministry Gratitude

Casey King is stepping down as co-chair of the CAN Ministry to focus his efforts on the Live Streaming Ad Hoc Committee work that is gaining momentum after nine months of effort. We are very grateful for his passion for our neighbors and for the year of transition that he and Laura Libby co-chaired together! Laura will continue as the CAN Ministry Chairperson for the foreseeable future.

The following is Casey's letter to CAN Ministry.



Good evening, Augustana CAN team—thanks to those who were able to attend the meeting on May 17, it was nice to catch up with all of you!

I want to share with you that I reached out to Pastor Caitlin and Laura, and I am stepping down as a co-chair for the CAN Ministry.

I have been offered an opportunity to lead the effort to install more permanent live-streaming capabilities in the sanctuary. I am part of a small project team including Paul Gilbertson as a co-leader, and we recently presented to the council and are moving forward very quickly. I'm hopeful that my tech background will help get this new streaming ministry off the ground and ready for next fall and beyond.

Our current streaming efforts already reach between 300–500 people per week and are reaching new parts of our community who are discovering Augustana for the first time and joining us in worship virtually.

The CAN Ministry, along with local and global ministry in general, remains a passion of mine, and I plan to continue actively participating in the group and am looking forward to what is on the horizon as we learn to think creatively about reaching others

in this strange time. We have some next steps to work through as a group following the CarePortal presentation from Ken Ringelspaugh, and it looks like the soup shelf experiment is coming along nicely.

In the coming days you will receive additional updates from Laura and Pastor Caitlin. I have enjoyed my time in the leadership role over the last year and am looking forward to continuing on with you as a member of the group. If any of you can think of a way to help incorporate the CAN ministry efforts into our live streaming ministry, I'm all ears!

*Thanks!
Casey*

Help Lutheran Family Services older adults

Our older adults and caregivers at LFSRM, still among the most vulnerable to COVID-19, could use your help. We are looking for volunteers to do yard work in and around the Denver Metro area extending to Brighton, Parker, Littleton, and Aurora. Tasks requested include leaf and rock removal, weeding, mowing/trimming, and a few other specialized projects. If you or your group would like to help, please contact **Natalie DeVille** (Natalie.deville@lfsrm.org or 303-217-5857).





Lutheran Family Services Backpack Drive is different this year!

Support foster care and refugee kids as they head back to school this fall! Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) is holding their annual backpack drive, this year with some flexibility because of COVID-19. We will be collecting \$50 gift cards from Target and Walmart, so that kids and their families can do their own shopping closer to the start of the school year. Augustana's Sarah Circle is sponsoring this drive at Augustana. There are two ways to donate:

- 1. Purchase a gift card or cards yourself**, and turn them in to Augustana by July 24. Because the office is usually closed, contact **Julie MacDougall** (303-388-4678 or macdougall@augustanadenver.org) to arrange a time to bring the card(s) by the church. They will be picked up from Augustana and delivered to the LFSRM office.
- 2. Go to Augustana's website to give a donation online.** Visit www.augustanadenver.org, select Giving, and Donate to Augustana Online, and select LFSRM Backpack Drive Gift Cards when you donate by credit card or PayPal. Make your donation before July 20. The donations will be used to purchase the gift cards and taken to the LFSRM office.

Thank you for helping these foster care and refugee students through your donations!

Staff availability for contact

While access to the building has been on an extremely limited basis, the staff has been widely available for contact, planning, and Zoom meetings. We remain committed to ongoing connection



Stay in Touch

and ministry together and invite you to contact staff on their regular workdays via phone, text, and e-mail. And, of course, the pastors remain available for emergency pastoral contact such as unexpected hospitalizations and death. If you have an emergency after business hours, call the emergency line (303-862-3027).

Pastor Ann: Sunday–Thursday, 303-388-4678 ext. 105, hultquist@augustanadenver.org

Pastor Caitlin: Sunday–Thursday, 303-388-4678 ext. 115, pastor.caitlin.trussell@gmail.com

Wendie Edwards, Director, Augustana Early Learning Center: Monday–Friday, 7:45 a.m.–6 p.m. or later, 303-388-7012, wendie@augustanadenver.org

Sue Ann Glusenkamp, Faith Community Nurse: Sundays and Tuesday–Friday, 303-388-4678 ext. 106, glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org

Lyn Goodrum, Publications Administrator: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., 303-388-4678 ext. 114, goodrum@augustanadenver.org

Julie MacDougall, Volunteer Ministry and Building Use: Sunday 9:30–10 a.m., Monday–Thursday 8:45 a.m.–3:45 p.m., 303-388-4678, macdougall@augustanadenver.org

Lisa Mikolajczak, Finance Administrator: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., 303-388-4678 ext. 103, lisa@augustanadenver.org

Shanna VanderWel, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Sunday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., 303-388-4678 ext. 107, shanna@augustanadenver.org

Seki Hodzic, Building and Grounds Manager: Wednesday–Sunday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Place mailing label here

 **JULY**
Birthdays

- 1** Brandon Berguin
Kandace Carter
Dallas Jensen
- 2** Ward Anderson
Jean Gottenborg
Bob Johnson
- 3** Merrill Fie
Deborah Penn
- 4**
- 5** Sandi Bair
Ed Wichert
- 6** Gianna Giordano
Lisa Mikolajczak
Al Spies
- 7** Matt Lomax
Caroline Stratton
- 8** Sharon Ferlic
Jonas Fontaine
Eric Milliken
Ekaterina Olson
Shipyatsky
- 9** Anna Blanchard
Catherine Clark
Julie Shellhorn

- 10** Cathy Anderson
- 11** Emily Crawford
Macgregor Crawford
Carol Parker
- 12** Ann Craig
Beth Nelson
- 13** Annabella Brotherston
- 14** Victoria Clark
Kevin Flesch
Jamie Kastens
Jon Morgenthaler
Michael Zumwalt
- 15** Maile Blair
Karen Bourg
Arlys Schneider
- 16** Sofia Aarestad
Hosanna Earl
Paul Gilbertson
Bob Ireland
Kari Kusek
- 17** Joshua Hempelman
Gay Hoag
Jack Kusek
Grey Lomax

- 18** Rebecca Egan
Iris Epperson
- 19** Elsa Buhr
Lydia King
Dale Penny
Lilian Stavig
Julia Stone
- 20**
- 21** Shelley Seaholm
- 22** Jane Gregory
Andrew McHattie
Darlene Stone
- 23** Phyllis Gilbertson
Lukas Zeckser
- 24** Curt Brogren
Anders Engdahl
Katy Ireland
- 25** Dean Ducnuigeen
Craig Gaites
Dick Kah
- 26** John Bickle
Sophie Nick

- 27** Shirley Cunniff
Nichole Graham
- 28** Ronald Lambert
Cathy Miller
- 29** Alana Hankins
Don Troike
- 30** Andrew Bernhard

- 31** Malise de Bree
Leigh Quist
Krista Rahe
Brian Shellhorn

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