

Lent at Augustana



Ash Wednesday, February 14

Worship at noon and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Augustana Singers will provide special music at noon, and Chancel Choir will sing at 7 p.m. The 7 p.m. service will be livestreamed.

Wednesdays in Lent

February 21, 28 and March 6, 13, and 20

5:45–6:30 p.m. **Lenten Soup Suppers**

- Fellowship Hall

6:30–7 p.m. **Evening Prayer**

- Christ Chapel

New this Lent is a different, beautiful liturgy for Evening Prayer. Come and be fed, body and soul.

Many thanks to our Soup Supper hosts!

February 21: Health Ministry

February 28: Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Read more about Lent on pages [4](#), [6](#) and [7](#).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

5000 E. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80246

Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE: 303-388-4678
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WEB: augustanadenver.org
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.

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, February 15, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the March edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Congregation Council:

President: Heidi Johnson
Vice President: Heather Nelson
Secretary: Nancy Nyhus
Interim Treasurer: Michael Gentes
Brynn Aarestad Roger Lipker
Betty Boyd Pr. Gail Mundt
Janet Flesch Pr. Caitlin Trussell
Jayme Howard Brian Willoughby
Sean-Casey King Michael Zumwalt
Jack Kusek

Staff:

- **Caitlin Trussell**, Pastor
- **Gail Mundt**, Bridge Pastor
- **William Crossen**, Finance Administrator
- **Christine Peters**, Building Systems Administrator
- **Shanna VanderWel**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
- **Andrew Peters**, Director 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
- **Alice Alister** and **Jesse Crone**, AV Technicians
- **Craig Tamminga**, Facility Manager
- **Asmir Hodzic**, Building and Grounds Manager
- **Ellen Kastens**, **Amy Tamminga**, **Erin Saboe Willoughby**, Wedding Coordinators
- **Kisanet Yohannes**, Director, Augustana Early Learning Center

Recently lifted up in prayer

For hope and healing:

- Sandy Bair
- Quentin Blakesley
- Bonita Bock
- Cindy Brown
- Kathy Edstrom
- Ashley Freiderichs
- Jerry Griehm
- Lisa and Greg L.
- Arlien Johnson
- Mark Martinez
- Sandy McCorkle Kline
- Katy Lunsford
- Gregory Mudge
- Wes Munsil
- Ursula Park
- Perry High School in Iowa and their community
- Diane Siira
- Laurie
- Ron Swenson
- Jacqueline and Edward Terry
- Mary Tinker
- Jo Ann Wacker-Farrand
- Diane Wichert

For comfort and courage:

- Pam Sumberg Cecil and Bill and Margery Sumberg in the death of husband and son-in-law, Gary Cecil
- Maria and Annabella Brotherston in the death of their nephew, Noah Hellman Ferris
- Paul Gilbertson in the death of his sister, Esther Johnson
- Bert Lager and family in the death of Dolly Lager
- Family and friends of Ann Pearson in her death
- Karin Sanderson in the death of her father, John Sanderson
- Savannah Thorpe in the death of her friend, Janelle Sperkados
- Doug Hein in the death of his friend, Dawn Trafacanti
- Alayna Nelson and Heather Nelson in the death of their cousin, Jared VanDerVliet
- Family and friends of Norma Williams in her death

Rejoice with

- Jackson Seabaugh Jordan, son of Katy and Justin Jordan, in his baptism
- Parents Megan (Mohs) and Robert Schoales, aunt Kari Kusek, and the late Tammy Mohs in the birth of Logan Thomas Schoales

Thank you for the gifts!

Augustana Memorial Garden

- in memory of Michael and Ruth Arden and Tri-R Members

Special Gifts

- in memory of Julie Beeman, Constance Diher, Jean Duncan, Frank, Norma and Curt Gerber, Esther Johnson, Dolly Lager, Donald Pace, Lee Reinhart, Con and Edith Shea



Gratitude for Mary Kay Hubbell's Planned Estate Gift to Augustana!

Mary Kay Hubbell was a longtime friend of Augustana who worshiped quietly and faithfully in the back pew at 8 a.m. worship. The last few years before her death included pastoral and nursing visits from us. She died in the spring of 2022. In December, a letter and a check arrived from her nephew who was executing her estate. Mary Kay specified in her will that Augustana Lutheran Church receive a percentage of her estate. Her generous bequest to the congregation amounted to \$42,490 which was designated as a Special Gift in our 2023 Statement of Activities.

Special Gifts like Mary's augment weekly offerings and allow our ministry of the gospel to thrive across generations. Please include Augustana Lutheran Church in your estate planning. Contact **Bill Crossen**, Finance Administrator (crossen@augustanadenver.org) or **Pastor Caitlin** (trussell@augustanadenver.org) to learn more.

Thank you to Jim Hawkinson, Mary Kay's nephew, who gave us permission to share Mary Kay's story. He said, "I know she would not want the publicity, but she would love knowing it would help encourage others."

Multifaith Service of Quiet, Music, and Candle Lighting

Wednesday, January 31, 5:45–6:30 p.m.
Augustana Lutheran Church, Sanctuary

This is the second time we are hosting this service. The first one of quiet, music, and candle lighting was developed in conversation with multifaith leaders and lay people—Jews, Muslims, and Christians—to hold a sacred space together in our shared humanity and with minimal words. One hundred people were in attendance and included Jews, Muslims (Shia, Sunni, Ismaili), Palestinians, Christians, and people who follow other spiritual practices. The first service was initiated by Together Colorado and the Multi Faith Leadership Forum. This second service will closely follow the order of the first so that people feel comfortable knowing what they're attending and inviting others to attend.

Many of us are mourning, distressed, confused, and in pain from world events. Being together in quiet and music is a way to be human together across political and cultural differences while embodying hope for local and global peace. There will be minimal words spoken aloud in the service. Security is being arranged. Separate space for Muslim prayers will be available after the service. This is a word-of-mouth event between faith leaders and their communities. No news organizations will be invited. Please direct any questions to **Pastor Caitlin Trussell** at trussell@augustanadenver.org.



Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day



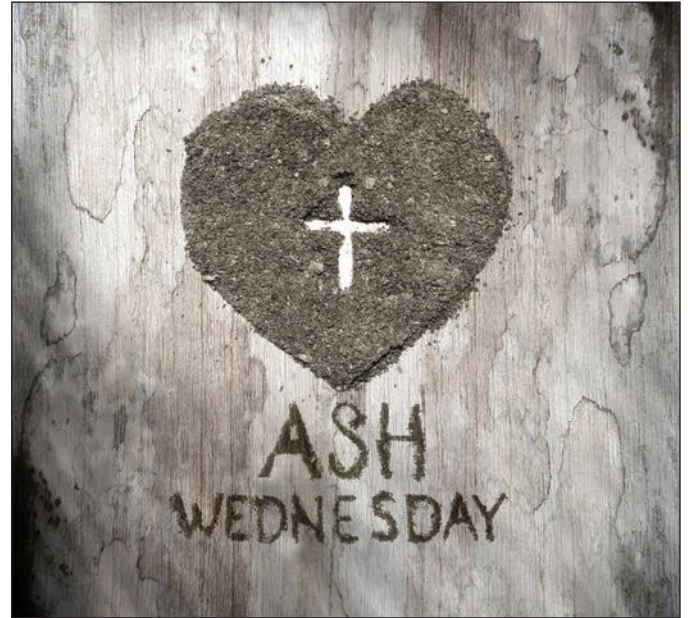
Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and 46 days before Easter. (Sundays are not included in the 40 days of Lent.) The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very

meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5–9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.
- Ashes remind us that we are still called, claimed, forgiven and loved Children of God.



This year is unique in that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! This happens about three times in each century. I find it poignant, for we view God as the author of love and life. While Valentine's Day is culturally viewed as a day of romance, we can choose to observe it as a day of love for God and all God's children. I was fortunate enough to grow up in a family and church where the celebrations included the children and youth, and I hope this can be so for each of you!

As we observe Ash Wednesday, coming together to have the ancient rite of ashes placed on our foreheads, let us also remember that we worship and gather in the name and presence of the one who loves and is Love.

P.S. Ash Wednesday services at Augustana are at noon and 7 p.m. Plan your Valentine's celebrations so that you can attend one of these services.

Pastor Gail



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...

1 Corinthians 12:4

Adult Forum: Spiritual Gifts Class

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room
February 4 and 11, led by **Pastor Gail Mundt**

God has blessed us with important gifts! The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ which includes grace, mercy and the forgiveness of our sins. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying and building up the body of Christ and the community of God. These abilities are called spiritual gifts.

Would you like to learn more about your spiritual gifts and how they can be used for the church and the glory of God? Copies of the spiritual inventory quiz will be available at Augustana, or you can open the link below and print your own copy (beginning on page 10). Join us for a lively discussion!

[https://www.womenofthelca.org/
filebin/pdf/resources/SpiritualGifts.pdf?
ga=2.248074247.1213530717.1705012910-
2069202674.1700079813](https://www.womenofthelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/SpiritualGifts.pdf?ga=2.248074247.1213530717.1705012910-2069202674.1700079813)



Micheal and Carmen Zoughbi leading Adult Forum on November 12.

Micheal and Carmen Zoughbi,

Palestinian Christian friends, have returned safely to their home in Jerusalem. (They haven't been able to visit their house in Bethlehem, yet.) They sent their Christmas blessings to you and much gratitude for your support of them and the carvers of Bethlehem. Their hospitality is extended to each of us should we be able to travel to the Holy Land. Please continue to keep them and theirs in your prayers.



Pastor Caitlin

Light into Lent



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

The liturgical year gives our faith a counter-balance to the woes of the world. Time is framed by scripture, story, and song that offer us hope—not illusory hope that distracts us from our challenges but a faithful hope that sustains us through them. February holds the end of one liturgical season with Jesus' Transfiguration on the 11th and the beginning of another with Ash Wednesday on the 14th. (Valentine's Day is the perfect day to celebrate the depth of divine love for us!)

The celebration of Epiphany light continues for the first two Sundays of February. It's a fitting time to shine light on Augustana volunteer ministry. Pastor Gail will teach about the gifts given to us

by the Holy Spirit in baptism. Come and identify yours. We'll also celebrate all our volunteers during worship and Sunday lunch on February 11. Join the party!

Ash Wednesday on the 14th pivots us from light into Lent. Historically, Lent was a time of preparation for Easter baptisms. We'll spend the first five Sundays in Lent gathered by the promises of baptism—our promises and God's—during worship and between services. Come to Adult Forum to sink into each of our baptismal promises and deepen our understanding of being "Gathered by Promises." This is also a good class for learning about baptism if you've never been baptized and would like to do so.

The world's moment seems to be ever shifting. Now more than ever, we abound in hope given to us in baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin

Adult Forum – Learn and Connect with Other People

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

February 4 and 11: "Spiritual Gifts Class"

Curious about your spiritual gifts? Join us to learn the W-5 (who, what, when, where, why) about our own gifts and how they might be used for God's ministry. (See details, page 5.)

February 18, 25, March 3, 10, and 17: "Gathered by Promises!"

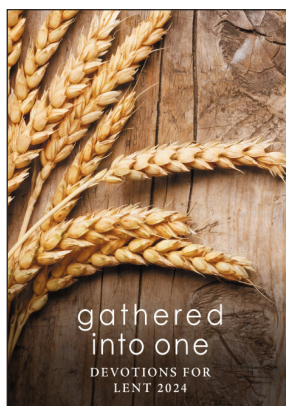
Immerse yourself in inspiration about our baptisms, the promises we make and how we live into them together by the power of promises God to us. Come and learn—whether you were baptized as a baby or are thinking about being baptized. Conversation and learning will be led by **Pastors Caitlin and Gail**.

Lenten Devotional Books are here!

You may pick up *Gathered Into One* pocket-size or large-print daily devotionals at Augustana's entrance tables. They are brought to you by our Adult Learning Ministry so are free for anyone who would like one. Or you can download the eBook version from

AugsburgFortress.org. This devotional dovetails nicely with Augustana's congregational Lenten theme—"Gathered by Promises," based on the promises of baptism.

"*Gathered into One* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from First Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers."



Music Ministry



This Lent Augustana again hosts midweek services in Christ Chapel on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. These services take place on February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20. Each service lasts about 30 minutes and includes music and a short reflection from one of the pastors.

During the past several years, Augustana used the music and liturgy from Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen at this service. Last year the worship and music committee discussed changing the setting used in Evening Prayer as a way to add variety to the service. After thought and conversation they approved changing this year's setting of Evening Prayer to the one from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (some of you know this as the green hymnal). Music in this setting of Evening Prayer comes from several composers: Gerhard M. Cartford, Roger T. Petrich, David Schack, and Dale Wood.

I appreciate the guest cantors who will help me lead the music during these evening services. A big thank you to **John Bengston, Kari Kusek, Susan Patterson,** and **Michael Zumwalt** for their part in these services.

I hope you will consider attending one or more of the Wednesday evening services this Lenten season.

Grace and peace,
Andy

AUGUSTANAARTS

This February, Augustana Arts is presenting two exciting performances—start the month out with the flavors and sounds of South America and bring it to a close with the magic of Mozart and those living in his legacy.

AUGUSTANAARTS
PRESENTS



MUSIC OF THE VINE: A SOUTH AMERICAN EXCURSION

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024
7:00pm
Augustana Lutheran Church

Music of the Vine: A South American Excursion

Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m., at Augustana

At **Music of the Vine: A South American Excursion**, join Venezuelan-born pianist **Victor Mestas** for an evening of South American jazz tunes, paired perfectly with delicious wines as **Claude Robbins**, the President of the International Wine Guild, takes audiences through a wine tasting. Explore the way your senses mingle and leave with a new appreciation for the tastes and sounds of South America.

The Magic of Mozart

Saturday, February 24, 7 p.m., at Augustana

Then, come back on February 24 for **The Magic of Mozart**, performed by the **Stratus Chamber Orchestra**. This program opens with a captivating piece from exciting living composer Caroline Shaw and features rising piano virtuoso **Matthew Liu** on Mozart's elegant Piano Concerto 21. The concert will wrap-up with Mozart's grand and unmatched "Jupiter" Symphony. It will be an evening of musical mastery woven with the captivating magic of Mozart's compositions.

Reserve tickets at AugustanaArts.org. Augustana Lutheran Church members use code ALC10 for \$10 off tickets.

AUGUSTANAARTS
PRESENTS



MAGIC OF MOZART

Featuring Matthew Liu, Piano

Saturday, Feb. 24th, 2024
7:00 pm

Welcome 150 is underway!

Augustana's 150th birthday is September 20, 2028!

Our mission statement celebrates God's grace followed by "*we welcome everyone . . .*" In the spirit of welcome, all of our ministries will be working on ways to celebrate Augustana's 150th birthday.

Last October, Council approved a proposal by Bill Crossen, Finance Administrator, and Pastor Caitlin for the Welcome 150 capital campaign that includes three goals:

- establish costs and priorities for projects that need to be done around the facility (the Welcome 150 Workgroup)
- form a committee to facilitate the process and lead the fundraising efforts
- evaluate the need for a fundraising consultant, including executing a request for proposal (RFP) process (the Welcome 150 Lead Team).

We're excited to report that both the Welcome 150 Lead Team (fundraising) and Workgroup (costs and priorities) have been formed and started meeting.

For more information, feel free to contact **Bill Crossen** (crossen@augustanadenver.org) or **Pastor Caitlin** (trussell@augustanadenver.org).

Welcome 150 Lead Team

- Katrina Crook, Chair
- Josie Cockrell
- Paul Edstrom
- Beth Boettcher Finke
- Ron Glusenkamp
- Ed Havranek
- Bill Crossen, Finance Administrator
- Caitlin Trussell, Pastor

Welcome 150 Workgroup

- Paul Blanchard, Property Committee
- Bill Crossen, Finance Administrator
- Greg Hempelman, Retired Engineer
- Kent Mueller (convener), Chancel Choir
- Christine Peters, Building Systems
- Erin Saboe, Welcome Connection
- Craig Tamminga (staff contact), Facilities Manager
- Dane Vierow, Architect

Call for 2023 Annual Reports

Reports from Augustana committees and staff are due on Thursday, February 8 to Publications Administrator,

Lyn Goodrum (goodrum@augustanadenver.org). Please submit a brief report that shares how you or your committee or organization supported Augustana's mission to worship, grow, and go in 2023. You are welcome to include photographs.

Published reports will be available for the congregation by Sunday, February 18.



Lunch and Learn: 2023 in Review!

Sunday, February 18, noon–1 p.m., Anna Paulson Room

Highlights from 2023 and the Annual Report will be shared

by members of council and staff. Come, learn, and ask questions about our ministries over the past year. Pick up a Sunday lunch and bring it with you. As Augustana has gone from two to one congregational meeting per year, this Lunch and Learn will pick up the thread of the year in review.



President of the Congregation

Gratitude for Congregational Meeting

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual congregational meeting, with special thanks to **Bill Crossen, Michael Gentes, Lisa Boe-Sims, Pastor Dominic Palacios, Jordan Ourada,** and last but not least, **Pastor Caitlin** and **Pastor Gail**. Tremendous preparation went into the presentations, with considerable collaboration from council members, both new and outgoing. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated members and outside partners that support our work together, allowing us to accomplish our shared mission, even during periods of transition.

Looking back, 2023 was significant in many ways as we learned through the presentation of the 2024 budget. As we look ahead, we hope to continue the momentum of giving from 2023 that supports so many valuable ministries! Thank you to everyone who contributed to creating a well-thought-out budget.

Transition Update

After much anticipation, we were blessed to learn more about the important work of the Transition Team from our Transition Consultant, Pastor Dominic Palacios, during the congregational

meeting. Working in partnership with the Transition Team, he and Jordan delivered the results of the Listening Circles, and recommended next steps as we begin to navigate a call process. We are grateful to the Transition Team for the time and energy they devoted to the process, which will prepare the Call Committee for the work that lies ahead. We are excited to have a Call Committee assembled and ready to begin work this month! More updates will follow in the coming weeks as they draft our Ministry Site Profile and partner with council in this next phase of the transition process.

Looking Ahead

With the congregational meeting concluded, our focus now turns to our 2024 initiatives, most importantly, supporting the call process. As we move into Lent, I'd like to echo Lisa's note to us from the January Tower: Let's move forward with enthusiasm, unity, and a shared commitment to making 2024 the best year yet in the story of Augustana. As a member of council, I'm looking forward to continuing to support our mission and strategic plan in the year ahead!

Heidi Johnson

Congregation President 2024

More about the Ministry Site Profile for the call process

The **Ministry Site Profile form (MSP)** provides congregations a single, common form to use to describe their mission and their search for a rostered minister. The MSP is filled out by leaders in the congregation (Transition Team, Call Committee, and/or Congregation Council) under the guidance of the Office of the Bishop. Once completed, submitted and approved by the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, the MSP will be stored with the ELCA's Mobility Database System (MDS).

Rostered ministers (pastors) are able to access the current MSPs to learn of ministry openings,

to read a basic snapshot of information about each opening, and to learn about the appropriate contact person for each call process. The Ministry Site Profile and Mobility Database System are designed only for searches for those rostered within the ELCA.

Click the link for a sample MSP if you are interested in learning the questions your church leaders will be answering.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Sample_Ministry%20Site%20Profile.pdf?_ga=2.35751776.1723885141.1704854447-2069202674.1700079813



In December, your offerings supported Advent Adventure for all ages, caroling to Augustana members and friends, and four Christmas Eve worship services.



Financial Statement through December 2023

	December 2023		December 2022	2023 Year-to-Date Period		YTD 2023
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$253,233	\$173,669	\$181,081	\$1,312,500	\$1,264,870	\$1,295,105
Expenditures	130,787	117,546	109,741	1,284,799	1,264,870	1,202,409
Net Income (loss)	\$122,445	\$56,123	\$71,341	\$27,701	\$-	\$92,697

- It was a Merry Christmas for Augustana's revenue line as both offering income and special gifts exceeded expectations. Expenses were higher than budget due to accruals for the transition consultant, mission support, and maintenance expenses.
- For the year, offering income exceeded budget by \$22,000. Special gifts (amounts left to the church in honor of or in memory of others) also exceeded budget by \$22,000. Expenses are higher than budgeted because property costs exceed budget by (\$61,000). A significant favorable variance due to open positions during the early part of the year was not sufficient to offset the variance in property expense.



Children, Youth, Family

Parents' Night Out

Kids of all ages are invited to a kid's night at Augustana, Saturday, February 3, 3–7 p.m. The cost per child is \$25 and includes a snack and supper. We will have adult and youth supervision along with games and crafts for the kids. To register, please contact **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by February 1.

Join Augustana for an afternoon of service with Wholly Kicks

Augustana's **Compassion and Action with Our Neighbor Ministry** and **Children, Youth and Family Ministry** invite you to serve with your time for Wholly Kicks on Sunday, February 4, 1–3 p.m. Come for Sunday Lunch and then carpool to the Wholly Kicks storage unit, where we will help organize and sort some of the many shoes that are given to those who need a free new pair.

All ages who are able to do some bending, lifting, and labeling are welcome to attend. RSVP to **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by January 31.

To learn more about the ministry of Wholly Kicks, visit <https://www.whollykicks.org/>.

College Care Packages, February 11

Breakfast Club will pack college care packages for young people who are attending any type of post high school education. If you have someone who needs to be added to this list with their mailing address, please let **Shanna** know (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107). Donations for about 25 packages are needed by 9 a.m., Sunday, February 11; or drop them off earlier in Augustana's office. Suggestions include small games, candies, chips, dried fruits, play dough, stationary items, etc.

February schedule

There will be no Confirmation and Breakfast Club on February 25 due to Ski Trip.

"Used" Bibles for High School Seniors

As part of our milestone ministry at Augustana, we celebrate our high school seniors with gifts of "used" Bibles. The Bibles will be in Fellowship Hall March and April, so stop by and leave your faith handprint. Names of students can be found on the inside cover, and you are encouraged to sign your name alongside a favorite verse or Bible story and even share what it means to you!



Augustana offers communion instruction for children/youth

Communion instruction at Augustana is part of our celebration of milestone ministries and young people who have not received any formal education on communion, whether they are already taking communion or not, are invited to participate in a time together during Lent to learn, paint chalices, and celebrate communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service March 28. If you would like more information or to participate, please contact **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107).

Save the dates for Summer Church Day Camp

Along with counselors from Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, Augustana will host Day Camp July 8–11. This camp is for kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade as of fall 2024 and will run 9 a.m.–4 p.m. each day. Cost will be \$80 per camper with a \$160 family maximum cost. Total participants will be limited to 40. Save the dates!

Sunday Lunch

All are invited to Fellowship Hall for a simple catered (or potluck!) lunch on Sundays following 10:30 a.m. worship. While this lunch is free, donations are welcome. Costs average around \$10 per person per meal. Sign up to help with serving and cleaning with **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 117).

Help Augustana save money and reduce waste by using your own water bottles for Sunday Lunch!

- **February 4:** Appetizer Potluck (details follow)
- **February 11:** Papa John's Pizza
- **February 18:** Mici Italian
- **February 25:** Which Wich Sandwiches

It's a potluck Sunday Lunch!

February 4 will be a potluck Sunday! In our attempts to spend less on our lunches, we are incorporating a few potlucks into rotation. On February 4 the theme is **appetizers**. You may drop them off before worship in Fellowship Hall kitchen or bring them down following worship. Please label any plates/dishes that are not disposable with your name.

Study/Fellowship

Women, Wine and Word

Women, Wine, and Word will meet Thursday, February 15 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room to begin our study of Revelation. Materials will be made available prior to the study. Bring a snack or beverage to share. Even better, bring a friend to this exciting group! For additional information, contact **Katy Lunsford** (Katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com).



Book Group

Join us on Monday, February 19 in the Youth Room at 1 p.m. to discuss our February book selection: *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. For information, contact **Ellen Kastens** (303-475-7877 or ekkastens@gmail.com). All are welcome.

Of all Jane Austen's great and delightful novels, *Persuasion*—the story of a second chance at true love—is widely regarded as the most moving.

Anne Elliot, daughter of the snobbish Sir Walter Elliot, is woman of quiet charm and deep feelings. When she was nineteen she fell in love with—and was engaged to—a naval officer, the fearless and headstrong Captain Wentworth. But the young man had no fortune, and Anne allowed herself to be persuaded to give him up.

Now, eight years later, Wentworth has returned to the neighborhood, a rich man and still unwed. Anne's never-diminished love is muffled by her pride, and he seems cold and unforgiving.

What happens as the two are thrown together in the social world of Bath—and as an eager new suitor appears for Anne—is touchingly and wittily told in *Persuasion*, a masterpiece that is also one of the most entrancing novels in the English language (Penguin Random House).



Synod Civil Rights Immersion Trip

After hearing about the great success of the trip Augustana hosted, the Rocky Mountain Synod sponsored a civil rights immersion trip, co-led by **Deacon Shanna VanderWel**. Eight people came together for a week in January to see, pray and process many of the Civil Right Sites in the Alabama area. Some of these included Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church and Parsonage, Edmund Pettus Bridge, The Legacy Museum, The Memorial for Peace and Justice, and Sloss Furnaces. It was an experience of **Church Better Together!**



Augustana Foundation

2023 Wrap-up Report

Following the investment challenges of 2022, the Augustana Foundation had a smaller budget for grantmaking than the prior year. A total distribution from the Foundation of \$140,200 was shared by the following organizations:

- Scholarships to two Augustana youth attending a Lutheran college
- Augustana Arts
- Capital Improvement Fund of Augustana Lutheran Church
- Lutheran Family Services – Rocky Mountain
- Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA – Better Together – Next Faithful Step campaign
- Restoration Outreach Program
- Nicaragua Project
- Metro Caring
- Sidewalk Poets
- Augustana Health Ministry
- OHANA
- The Denver Catholic Workers Soup Kitchen
- Urban Servant Corps
- Global Immersion
- Work Options
- Maria Droste Counseling Center
- Well of Hope
- Hands of the Carpenter
- Urban Peak

With careful rebalancing of the investment portfolio, some market recovery, and additional gifts received in 2023 of \$8,484, it is anticipated that the funds available for distribution in 2024 will slightly increase.



Volunteer Ministry

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, February 11, we will celebrate the wonderful volunteers at Augustana. Without them, so many things couldn't happen! We'll recognize everyone in worship, and then have pizza and cake after 10:30 a.m. worship. Please join us as we show our appreciation for everyone's dedication to our ministries.

Welcome Connection

Worship, grow and go in 2024!

Happy New Year! 2024 is off to a great start with new Breadbreakers sign ups, and wonderful Faith Formation classes for all ages. January brought in more visitors and folks who are looking to join the fun.

Augustana has LOADS of volunteer opportunities on the horizon. Check out the rest of the Tower articles to find out how you can help! Welcome Connection's February Challenge is to jump in on one or two new chances to volunteer.

Thanks for being wonderfully active members of our faith community.



Health Ministry

Augustana's Health Ministry offers weekday grief support group this spring

"My experience in the group was like a large flower opening in the sun!"

"I learned a tremendous amount about the grieving and mourning process during our time together. What I learned has helped me through a difficult time of grieving."

—Augustana Grief Group Participants

Understanding Your Grief

Bereavement Support Group

- Midweek daytime grief group on Tuesdays!
- Ten Sessions starting Tuesday, February 13 (just in time for a Lenten journey)
- 10:30 a.m.–noon
- Facilitators: **Sue Ann Glusenkamp**, FCN, and **Pastor Ron Glusenkamp**
- Cost: 90 minutes each session and \$30 to cover cost of books
- Scholarships are available
- Registration required by Sunday, February 4
- Limited group size to first ten registrants
- Each participant will receive two books to guide the journey

Scan the QR code to register online or contact **Sue Ann** (glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678). Registration forms are also available at Augustana's entrance tables.



Saying goodbye to a loved one is never easy. You are invited to join this group and learn ten essential touchstones for finding hope and healing your heart. We will use the curriculum written by Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt of the Center for

Loss and Transition in Fort Collins (<https://www.centerforloss.com/>).

Comments from past participants:

"I would definitely encourage someone considering attending the grief support group to give it a try!"

"The ability to share my story with others in the group was very much a healing process for me. Further, the interaction with others and sharing their grief helped me to realize that we all have the same feelings and issues that only a group like this can help with."

"I was encouraged to talk and share on a weekly basis which gave me permission to keep bringing my feelings and emotions to the surface. This allowed me to honor whatever grief I was feeling at the time and to be open to a lot of different paths to mourning."

"Sharing my thoughts and feelings and listening to others sometimes gave me a new perspective on a variety of situations. I felt supported by the group and this experience has given me the courage to go forward and to trust that I am going to be okay."

"Grief can feel very lonely and it helped to be with others experiencing similar things."

"It was helpful to hear others expressing their grief and to know I was not alone."

Join Sue Ann and Pastor Ron on Tuesdays in the Anna Paulson Room. If you are in need of a Zoom connection with the group, that will also be available as required for any illness, exposure, or travel needs.

Please contact Faith Community Nurse Sue Ann with any questions or concerns (303-388-4678 ext. 106).

New meeting time for E4 Monthly Gatherings

The mission of **E4** is to **En**lighten, **Enc**ourage, **E**ducate, and **Emp**ower individuals and families about mental health in a faith-based community.

... so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

Members and friends of Augustana are invited to gather on the fourth Sunday of the month, 9:15–10:15 a.m., Ammerman Library. Our next meeting is February 25. We pray, study, learn, and plan action around mental illness and mental health for our congregation in alignment with Augustana's mission to Worship, Grow, and Go.



The winning chili recipe

Because several of you have asked for it, here is the recipe that won the chili cook-off in November!

Sweet Potato Chili

from Sue Ann Glusenkamp

- 2–3 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into one inch chunks
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 2–3 cloves garlic, minced
- One 14.5-ounce can of diced fire-roasted tomatoes
- One 15-ounce can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- One 15-ounce can white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can sweet kernel corn (or frozen) drained
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder (or to taste)

- 1 teaspoon paprika (I use smoked paprika and 2 teaspoons)
- ½ teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- 1½ cups veggie broth (or to desired consistency)

Combine sweet potatoes, onion, red pepper, and garlic in a slow cooker. Stir together undrained tomatoes and remaining ingredients in a bowl. Pour over the potatoes mixture, mixing well.

Cover and cook on low setting for about 6 hours or until sweet potato is tender. To thicken soup add a few cups to a blender and puree then return to the cooker.

Serve topped with shredded cheddar cheese or sour cream or BOTH!

Adjust ingredients, especially spices, adding other types of beans, to your liking! Creative license is encouraged! Enjoy!

**Lutherans Restoring
Creation
and
ELCA World Hunger**

**are screening a film
to inspire faith
communities to grow
their climate justice!**

Co-sponsored by:

A FILM BY JOHN FELDMAN

REGENERATING LIFE

How to cool the planet, feed the world, and live happily ever after

TUESDAY FEB 27TH AT 5:00PM PT/8:00PM ET

Film Highlights & Discussion with the Filmmaker, John Feldman

HummingbirdFilms © 2023 Hummingbird Films LLC

Caring for Creation

A film resource to encourage conversation about creation care

Did you know that when Augustana is participating in our congregational efforts to Care for Creation through composting, recycling, and limiting our amount of trash, we are joining other Lutherans across the country and, in fact, the world with our efforts? Grounded in ELCA social teachings since 1993, and most recently challenged by the ELCA 2023 Climate Care Social Message, representatives from each of the following

offices, networks, and organizations connect quarterly to ensure all expressions of our church can be faithful stewards of God’s good creation. The work in between meetings is ongoing and collaborative among the following: The Lutheran World Federation, Lutherans Restoring Creation, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Center for Climate Justice and Faith at Pacific Lutheran Seminary, and several others,

“Regenerating Life: How to cool the planet, feed the world, and live happily ever after.”

Tuesday, February 27, 6 p.m.

Details and Registration

<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/event/regenerating-life-watch-meet-the-filmmaker/>

including ecumenical partners.

And now **Lutherans Restoring Creation** and **ELCA World Hunger** are eager to share a resource faith communities can use to start discussions and inspire community-

based-solutions to grow climate justice.

Regenerating Life offers attainable solutions to the climate crisis through an ecological approach that unpacks the social and environmental crises confronting

us. John Feldman has been making powerful and original films in a range of genres for over 40 years. His films have won numerous international awards.

Get Ready - Watch - Listen - Share

LRC and ELCA World Hunger is eager to dig into the complicated and critical work of how the land is part of the solution to

healing ourselves and the planet. Register to get the link to watch this film on your own, and then we convene with the filmmaker to discuss what local action can mean for your church community.

Register on-line and join Lutherans across the USA in this engaging opportunity to explore this together!

We are not alone in our love for and care of God's Creation!

Information for this newsletter from <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/CreationCareNetwork> and Lutherans Restoring Creation (link above).

Our Environmental Impact from Composting!



14,093 lbs. diverted!

This is the total weight that has been collected from us so far.



93 seedlings planted!

Composting has a huge impact on the environment. From a greenhouse gas equivalency standpoint, our composting efforts are equivalent to 93 urban trees seedlings grown for 10 years.



13,980 miles offset!

Our composting efforts are equivalent to not driving 13,980 miles. Whoa.



634 gallons of gas!

The number of gallons of gasoline offset by diverting food scraps from the landfill.

Compassion & Action with our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry

You met the goal of five Refugee Apartment bins—and them some!



Thank you so much for your donations for Refugee Apartment Bins during the month of December! We were able to provide 15 bins to Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM)—way above our goal of five bins! To give you a sense of the scope/need at the moment, LFSRM has about 100 refugees who arrived in January alone, and at least 27 new households have been set up!

Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) would like the apartment bin project to be ongoing, so if you are willing to provide items, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4AADA723A2FF2-46029129-refugee#/> to access the sign up. Once an entire bin is provided, the form will be reset and we will begin collecting for a new bin. Once an apartment bin is completed online, you will be contacted via email to coordinate a date to bring the items to Augustana.

If you are interested in providing an entire bin by yourself, please email **Amy King** (amyking0607@gmail.com) directly. You can expect one bin to cost approximately \$200.

You can also provide a monetary donation toward the purchase of these items, via the Augustana Refugee Family Support link on Augustana's Giving page at augustanadenver.org, or by check payable to Augustana Lutheran Church with "Refugee Apartment Bins" on the memo line.

Augustana Refugee Support rejoices in October baby!

The newest member of the Beayim family has arrived! Karim Elysee was born on October 27 and is doing very well. He will go by his middle name, Elysee, in honor of his grandfather. Elysee's older sister is very excited to have a cute little baby brother. Both mom and baby are in good health.



Laureanne was truly overwhelmed by the generosity of this community and expressed blessings and gratitude. She received everything from the baby registry as well as many donations of clothing, diapers, and other necessities. The whole family is happy to be together and enjoying life in Colorado with their new family member.

Try something new in 2024

The CAN Ministry's spring initiatives are well underway. We encourage you to try something new in 2024. Below is a list of CAN's current activities. Perhaps you may want to volunteer your time to work on one or more.

- On February 4, CAN Ministry and Children, Youth and Family Ministry will assist **Wholly Kicks** in sorting and organizing shoes in their storage facility. Look for additional information from Shanna VanderWel on [page 12](#) of this newsletter.
- **Lutheran Day at the Capitol** is scheduled for February 15. Katy Lunsford will publish information about how you can get involved.
- Soon you will see information regarding the purchase of gift cards for **Warren Village Easter Baskets**.

- **Undie Sunday** and **Refugee Personal Care Kits** are slated for April. Look for announcements in the next few weeks.

Each activity may seem insignificant; however, added together, they greatly improve the lives of our brothers and sisters.

If you have any questions or want additional information, contact **Laura Libby** (laura.alibby@gmail.com) or **Annie Nessa** (amnessa@comcast.net).

The next CAN Ministry meeting will be Sunday, March 3, noon–1:30 in Rooms 4 and 5. Everyone is welcome.



Human Dignity Delegates invite you to Lutheran Day at the Capitol

The February meeting of Human Dignity Delegates will be Lutheran Day at the Capitol. This year's event is Thursday, February 15. Details and registration can be found at <https://www.rmselca.org/co-lutheran-day-at-the-capitol>. Traditionally, we meet at St Paul's near the capital to hear from our Bishop and then walk a few blocks to the State Capital.

For more information, contact **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you all there.



Spring service opportunities with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver/Holy Hammers

Holy Hammers is a coalition of Lutheran churches in the Metro Denver area with members who donate their time to fundraise and participate in the construction of affordable housing. There are a couple of opportunities to be involved in coming up with Habitat for Humanity in March. Please consider signing up or at least marking your calendars.

Site Build and Production Shop Volunteer Opportunities

Holy Hammers and HFHMD are continuing to partner to build single-family homes in Denver. And whether they are helping to build the townhomes or painting in the Production Shop, it's always a time of blessing in working alongside other volunteers. We have slots available in March 2024 as detailed below. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up online at least two weeks in advance of each date through this link: <http://holyyhammers.denver.volunteerhub.com/>.

Spring opportunities:

- **Five spots on Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.** at the Production Shop (520 Raritan Way, Denver, CO, 80204). *Sign up by February 24.*
- **Five spots on Saturday, March 23, 8:50 a.m.–4:30 p.m.** at the New Construction site, Mountain View Homes (2101 S Joliet St, Aurora, CO, 80014). *Sign up by March 9.*

The minimum ages for the Production Shop and working at a building site, are 14 and 16, respectively, and this is a great way for our youth to get credit for community activities that can help with applying to colleges and for jobs. All levels of talent are welcome, and we receive instructions for everything we are asked to do, always working under supervision. And we are not expected to do anything we don't feel comfortable in performing.

If you would like additional information on how to get involved, please contact **Michael Zumwalt** (303-907-6305 or michaelczumwalt@gmail.com).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Sunday Faith Formation 9:30am GIFT Confirmation Breakfast Club Sunday Children and Youth Music Ministry 9am Cherubs Choristers Chancel Handbells Noon Cantabile Chapel Ringers			1 10am 60+ Ministry: Coffee Talk	2 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	3 3pm Parents' Night Out
4 Epiphany 5 Health Ministry Sunday 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Appetizer Potluck Sunday Lunch Noon Augustana Knitters 1pm Volunteer at Wholly Kicks <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	5 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Welcome Connection 7pm Augustana Foundation Governance Committee	6 5:30pm Worship Committee 6pm Young Adult Bible Study: <i>The Chosen</i> 7pm Augustana Foundation Grantmaking Committee	7 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:15am Augustana Singers 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	8 Annual Reports due!	9 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	10 7pm Augustana Arts: Music of the Vine
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Gratitude for Volunteers College Care Packages 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Health Ministry Team 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	12 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	13 10:30am Grief Support Group 7pm Augustana Foundation Board	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 9am AELC Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers Noon Worship/Communion 7pm Worship/Communion	15 The Tower deadline Lutheran Day at the Capitol 7pm Women, Wine and Word	16 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Lunch & Learn: The Best of 2023: Annual Report <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	19 Presidents' Day 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Book Group	20 10:30am Grief Support Group 7pm Congregation Council	21 9am AELC Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 5:45pm Lenten Soup Suppers 6:30pm Evening Prayer in Lent 7:15pm Chancel Choir	22	23 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	24 7pm Augustana Arts: The Magic of Mozart
25 Second Sunday in Lent 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am E4 Mental Health 9:15am Adult Forum 9:35am Augustana Ringers 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	26 7:30am Foot Care Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	27 10:30am Grief Support Group 5pm Caring for Creation: (online) <i>Regenerating Life</i> 7pm Rachel Circle	28 9am AELC Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 5:45pm Lenten Soup Suppers 6:30pm Evening Prayer in Lent 7:15pm Chancel Choir	29		

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A decorative graphic for "FEBRUARY Birthdays". The word "FEBRUARY" is in large, red, serif capital letters. Below it, "Birthdays" is written in a cursive, grey font. The text is surrounded by decorative swirls and small pink hearts.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

1 Frederick Jacobs
Craig Tamminga

2 Micah Levy
Tanner Levy
Maya Stone
Ogden Willoughby

3 Linda Crow
Randa Degerness

4 Ron Glusenkamp
Patsy Miller
Kira Morgenthaler

5 Julie Byther
Owen Siverson

6 Herman Ezpeleta
Duane Gall
Samantha Lloyd
Carla McConnell

7 Marcel Batorowicz
Michelle Jacobson

8 Todd Engdahl
Amy Tamminga

9 Grace Crook

11 Kathleen Edstrom

12 Geneva Corace
Chris Petty

14 Bernie Smith

15 Marianne Bovee
Carter Cox
Pierce Devol
Jennifer Moore

16 Gail Bartels
Kiere Gilbertson
Michael Kouba
Hillary Luna
Bronwen
VanOrdstrand
Lance Wheeland

17 Luke Hankins
Diane Van Horn

18 Sandy Barker
Michael Miller
Erica Schmitt
Zander Storie

19 Tiana Beazer

20 Michael Bonicelli

21 David Aarestad
Cole Hankins
Heather Nelson

22 Chris Cochrane
Sheryl Dirks
Harry Esbenshade
Rick Friesen

23 Laura Libby
Dianne Nelson
Erin Saboe

24 Meghan Gentes
Kent Mueller

25 Kay Madsen

26 Donald Orendorff

27 Candace Jones

28 Marcia Stevens
Donald Thomson

29 Ryan VanderWel

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