

## News about Augustana's pastors!

### Call Committee recommends Pastor Caitlin Trussell to be Senior Pastor

The Call Committee has been working diligently since they were installed in February, building on the work of the Transition Team and Congregation Council in order to identify the right candidate to serve as Augustana's next Senior Pastor.

A report from the Call Committee was mailed to every member household which thoroughly explains their process of discernment to recommend Pastor Caitlin Trussell. Council met on April 16 and voted unanimously to recommend her and to schedule a vote of the congregation.

#### Notice of congregational meeting

A special congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 5, at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall** to vote on extending a call to Pastor Caitlin to serve as Senior Pastor. A compensation package has been agreed on and fits within our approved budget.

Augustana's constitution defines voting members as those who are confirmed and have attended and contributed at least once in the previous year. Voting members will be asked to sign in for the meeting to receive a ballot. Per our constitution, absentee balloting is not permissible for the calling of a pastor.

Council encourages all members of Augustana to attend the meeting and join us in affirming our dedication and commitment to our life in faith, together.

### Gratitude and Godspeed for Pastor Gail!

**Sunday, May 19, 9–10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

- Scheduled remarks at 9:45 a.m. with coffee and treats hosted by Congregation Council.
- Pastor Gail's last day with Augustana is May 31. Come and celebrate her time with us as our Bridge Pastor.





Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

5000 E. Alameda Ave.  
Denver, CO 80246

**Augustana**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**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, May 9, 4:30 p.m.** is the deadline for the June edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** ([goodrum@augustanadenver.org](mailto: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
Jayne 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:

- Cyrus Atherton
- L.
- Dale Arden
- Frank Bair
- Helen Blanz
- Jim Chandler
- Venus Conklin
- Barbara Grande
- Doug Hein and Mark Boyd
- Sandy Heitzman
- Karen Huff
- Arlien Johnson
- Sheila Johnson
- Nora Johnston
- Adele Klug
- Robert Larson
- Fred Scott
- Sheila Sjostrom
- Penny and Larry Sweetser
- Don Thomson
- Arleen Wilson

### For comfort and courage:

- Family and friends of Larry Ehrichs in his death
- Family and friends of David Nilemo in his death
- Family and friends of Leah Peden in her death

## Rejoice with

- Parents AJ and Ryan Atherton and grandparents Craig and Amy Tamminga in the birth of son Luca Jean Atherton, April 2
- Juliana Fae Bredenberg and her family, Peter, Erin, Marion, and Eddie, in her baptism

## Thank you for the gifts!

### Augustana Early Learning Center

- in memory of Dolly Lager



## Worship



# PENTECOST

Worship at Augustana on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The color of the day is red. Wear red and come and worship!

## S'more Fun and Worship

Wednesdays, June 5, 12, 19, and 26 and July 10, 17, 24, and 31, 5:30 p.m., Quist Park

Family friendly meal with s'mores and camp-style worship in Augustana's Quist Park! Pizza or sandwiches will be available for dinner each week. You are encouraged to bring a water bottle and chair or blanket. Contact **Deacon Shanna VanderWel** (303-388-4678 ext. 107 or [shanna@augustanadenver.org](mailto:shanna@augustanadenver.org)).







**Pastor Gail**

Aloha! Aloha is one of the most well-known Hawaiian words—both in the islands and around the world. Aloha is used as a greeting and also as a farewell and seems appropriate to use as I finish my year at Augustana. My ‘hello’s’ seemingly just started, and it’s already time to say ‘good-bye.’

This has been a wonderful year with the good folks of Augustana! When I arrived, there were concerns, bewilderment, and questions about the future of ministry as Pastor Ann had retired and Pastor Caitlin had been diagnosed with cancer. Throughout these concerns and uncertainties, Augustana’s staff and lay leadership continued to thrive and persevere.

All were adamant that God’s ministry would continue through the many and various ways which Augustana has been living the love of God. The word continued to be preached. Sacraments shared. Music savored. Children taught. People served. Homebound and hospitalized visited. Volunteers hard at work. Buildings and grounds maintained. And throughout the week, sounds of music, laughter, prayers, conversations, and the goodness of God reverberated. The Holy Spirit made and makes her presence known.

When we lived on the Big Island, we learned the specialness of the word ‘Aloha’ beyond a simple greeting. The term aloha derives from Proto-Polynesia and dates back to the early 1800’s. When broken down, it literally translates to [Alo] meaning ‘presence’ and [Ha] meaning ‘breath.’ Together the word aloha translates to ‘The presence of breath’ or ‘breath of life.’

**The word aloha translates to ‘The presence of breath’ or ‘breath of life.’**

In Genesis 2:7–9, we read: Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

On April 7, the Gospel lesson was John 20 and we read this: When (Jesus) had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

The presence of the Holy Spirit (of God’s breath) will be celebrated on May 19, Pentecost Sunday (one of my favorite festivals!).

Breath in the Bible is far more than the physical exchange of air in and out of the lungs. It is one of the most profound symbols in scripture. Breath in both the New Testament Greek and the Old Testament Hebrew is equated with God’s Spirit.

With gratitude and humility, I have experienced the breath of the Holy Spirit in this ministry known as Augustana Lutheran Church. You are blessed and a blessing to one another and to the community. May you continue to be so for many years to come. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives this past year.

Aloha and God bless,  
**Pastor Gail Mundt**

# Pastor Caitlin

## Gratitude for Pastor Gail

Pastor Gail started her bridge role with Augustana on June 1, 2023. She arrived at a time when her calm presence and storied preaching placed her signature on the pastoral transition. As a colleague, I am grateful for her many gifts including her strong gift of faith that grounds everything she does. I'll long remember, and have already borrowed, her expression, "My heart is full," in response to especially poignant moments in life and ministry.



Augustana is a complex congregation. It's tough to hit the ground running from day one—and even day 51. In Pastor Gail's steady way and with her vast experience, she took one day at a time and each moment as it came, adjusting whatever she had planned for the day to make room for the new priority.

We will celebrate her ministry among us on Pastor Gail's last two Sundays in May with a special coffee time on May 19 and a Farewell and Godspeed during both worship services on May 26. Come and be a part of wishing her well!

Peace,  
**Pastor Caitlin**

See also the [cover](#) of this Tower edition.

## Karen Ullestad, Assisting Pastor for the Summer

While the Call Committee continues its work of building the pastoral team, Karen Ullestad will temporarily join Augustana's staff on June 3 as the Assisting Pastor to work with Pastor Caitlin on worship, preaching, teaching, baptisms, funerals, and other ministries. Pastor Karen is a retired pastor and an Augustana member. Her term contract is for 20 hours per week for 10 weeks which realizes significant savings related to the budget. Pastor Karen's contract will end sooner if two pastors are called and have started work before the end of the summer.



## Memorial Garden Update

The engravings on some of the headstones in the Memorial Garden are fading, so we are working with Sterling Monument to have them redone. In the next few weeks, Seki will remove those stones and replace them with blank ones/placeholders and send them to Sterling Monument. They are not sure how long this process will take, but estimate at least several weeks. We want to make sure that everyone is aware of our efforts and the temporary changes you may notice if you visit the Memorial Garden.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Julie in the church office (303-388-4678 or [macdougall@augustanadenver.org](mailto:macdougall@augustanadenver.org)).

# Congregation President

## Gratitude for and wrap-up of the work of the Transition Team



Congregation President  
Heidi Johnson

Transition at Augustana continues! We are preparing to recognize the faithful work of our Transition Team when they are officially “decommissioned” at the April 28 services. As this chapter of our transition comes to a close, I asked Pastor Dominic Palacios to share a few concluding thoughts from his experience with us. It seemed appropriate as we are now relying on the Call Committee to usher us through this next stage while also remembering how this moment arrived.

With appreciation,  
**Heidi Johnson**

### Greetings Augustana,

This is Pastor Dominic Palacios, and I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Transitional Consultant. It was a joy to work with the Council and Transition Team, meet your dynamic staff and pastors, and encounter so many faithful people when I visited your worship services. Now that my work is done, I wanted to leave you with a few concluding thoughts.

First, you care about your church. A Transition Process takes several months, and a church can grow weary when they do not have strong leadership and congregational involvement. I knew this church was in good hands after my first meetings with Council, Transition Team, and staff.

Second, I am hopeful that your next season of ministry will be vibrant. Churches respond to a transition season in a variety of ways. Some

are fearful. Others are angry. Others see it as an opportunity to grow and discover who they are. You clearly wanted to make the most of this season. The transition team was diligent in their work and produced an excellent report. Council remained curious about the needs of the congregation and considered creative solutions. The congregation was engaged and patient. As a consultant, I have a deep conviction that transition periods are one of the most important times in the life of the church. When you do it well, it sets you up for a hopeful future. You certainly did this.

Finally, you are in good hands. You have dedicated leaders, pastors, and staff who love this church and want what is best for it. The Transition Team made a smooth handoff to the Call Committee, and they are faithfully doing the hard work of interviewing candidates and discerning next steps. Now that my work has concluded, Pastor Mandy Achterberg will help guide the Call Committee and Council during this next phase of transition. Most importantly, the Risen Lord is with you every step of the way. May you continue to love and trust Him in all that you do.

Again, I am thankful for our time together and am excited about your future.

grace + peace

**Rev. Dominic Palacios**

Transitional Consultant







In March your offerings supported Holy Week and Easter worship services, pretzel baking with 60+ Ministry, and the purchase of seven Bibles personalized by Augustana members and friends for Augustana's 2024 graduating high school seniors.

## Income Statement for the Year-to-Date Period ended March 31

	March 31, 2024		March 2023	2024 Year-to-Date Period		YTD 2023
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$106,253	\$125,915	\$125,614	\$362,357	\$353,708	\$314,007
Expenditures	113,011	116,515	110,719	333,768	340,726	318,248
Net Income (loss)	\$(6,758)	\$9,400	\$14,895	\$28,589	\$12,982	\$(4,241)

We came back to earth a little bit in March recording a net loss of (\$6,800), (\$16,200) worse than budgeted. Revenue was (\$19,700) less than expected due to offerings while expenses were \$3,500 lower than budget. The March result demonstrates that most variances should be considered timing at this point in the year.

Even with the March result, we have started the year off well recording net income of \$28,600 for the year-to-date period, \$15,600 better than budgeted. Revenue was \$8,600 higher than expected while expenses were \$7,000 lower than budget. Most variances should be considered timing at this point in the year. The year-to-date net income represents a \$32,800 improvement over the same period of 2023.



## Music Ministry

### A chorus of thanks to all who lead and participate in Music Ministry!

Numerous people give their time and talents for worship and music at Augustana. Without these folks, worship would be dull and lifeless. This past season, 28 sang in children and youth choirs, 60 sang in the Chancel Choir or Augustana Singers, 28 played in the three handbell choirs, and five played in the Augustana Instrumental Ensemble. In addition to these 115 individuals (some participate in more than one ensemble), many others have enriched worship by playing an instrument or singing a solo in Sunday worship, Wednesday Lent evening services, and Holy Week services.

We appreciate the work of music staff members **Angela Howard** (Choristers and Cantabile director), **Kevin Padworski** (Chancel Choir director) and members of the Augustana Vocal Ensemble: **Emily Murdock**, **Bella Mallow**, **Blake Nawa`a**, and **Keith Williamson**.

I am grateful to the lead volunteers in the music program for their time and work. I thank: **Kirsten Daniel** for her leadership of the Augustana Instrumental Ensemble. **Tim Garrington** and **Christelle Menth** for their work as accompanists with different ensembles. **Kent Mueller** for his work as assistant Augustana Ringers director, help with administrative music tasks, time spent writing hymn arrangements when Augustana Ringers play in worship, and help with last month's Hearts, Hands, and Voices workshop. **Sharon Schillereff** for past work as Recorders Ensemble director, playing as an accompanist, and conducting

assistance when Chapel Ringers play in worship. **Marcia Olson** for directing Cherub Choir and for overseeing choir robe organization. **Rhonda Crossen**, **Lana Farrington**, **Elizabeth Frank**, and **Susan Patterson** for their work as choral music librarians. **Christine Peters** for help with music equipment moving and miscellaneous tasks as needed.

When you see one of these people please thank them for their contribution to the life of Augustana. I know that I am grateful for all of the gifts these people share with this church throughout the year.

Grace and peace,  
**Andy**

### A Musical Memorial

An anthem for choir and cello, "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" by Elaine Hagenberg, was given by Kent Mueller in memory of his wife, Elizabeth Izant. It was sung by the Chancel Choir in 10:30 a.m. worship on April 28.



# Children, Youth, Family

## End-of-Year Faith Formation Bash

On Sunday, May 5, 9:30–10:15 a.m. in the courtyard and Fellowship Hall, we will have snacks and the bouncy house set up in the courtyard. Kids and kids-at-heart are welcome to come celebrate!

**Thank you** to all who contributed to another great year of Faith Formation at Augustana! A special thank you to the teachers, **Katrina Crook, Michael Gentes, Kari Kusek, Katy Lunsford, Alayna Nelson, Heather Nelson, Julie Shellhorn, Amy Tamminga, and Beth Warren!** We are grateful for all the parents who brought snacks and volunteered to be second adults.

If you are interested in volunteering in fall of 2024, contact Shanna to share your time and talents.



## Enjoy a sweet afternoon at the youth variety show!

Mark your calendars for the youth sponsored variety show and cake auction Sunday, May 5, 12:30–2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation is \$5 per person with a \$20 family maximum. Enjoy a variety of acts, and bid on yummy cakes or other desserts crafted by youth and other Children, Youth and Family volunteers.

Want to share your variety act? Please contact **Shanna** ([shanna@augustanadenver.org](mailto:shanna@augustanadenver.org) or 303-388-4678 ext. 107).

## Sunday Lunch concludes the season

Enjoy Mici Italian on the final Sunday Lunch of the season, May 5. Sunday Lunch returns September 8.

## Vacation Bible School/Day Camp

Day Camp registration is live on our website for participants and volunteers (<https://www.augustanadenver.org/vacation-bible-school/>).

Registration is capped at 40! Day camp will run at Augustana July 8–11, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. each day.

## Vacation Bible School Volunteers

Help support the campers and Sky Ranch Staff the week of July 7–12. They are in need of meals and housing during this time for four staff. If you are interested in sharing your home or a meal, please contact **Shanna** (303-388-4678 ext. 107 or [shanna@augustanadenver.org](mailto:shanna@augustanadenver.org)).



## Youth Fundraiser Results

**Thank you** to all who contribute to the fundraisers supporting Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Augustana! We made \$2,659 during our Palm Sunday Breakfast.

The Easter Garden money was used to purchase 50 live potted plants. As our plant selection has changed over the years, the cost per plant is \$40. We also purchased three bouquets for Easter including the one for the cross which was put into the Memorial Garden after Easter Worship.

# Welcome 150

## GSB to guide Augustana through Welcome 150 campaign

As you may recall, in response to the emerging and growing building and facility needs, last October Council approved a proposal for a capital campaign, or rather a major fundraising effort, that will correlate with the 150th birthday of our congregation on September 20, 2028. In response, the Welcome 150 Lead Team was formed to spearhead the fundraising efforts.

As we embark on this exciting journey, we have partnered with a professional fundraising firm, GSB. GSB was hired through a “request for proposal” and interview process facilitated in February and March. The firm brings a breadth of experience in working with churches similar to Augustana and has specifically worked with more than 500 ELCA congregations, agencies and institutions in its 40+ year history. Additionally, the lead consultant, Paul Marsh, lives here in



Welcome 150 Lead Team Chair **Katrina Tamminga Crook** and her family

Denver and knows our community and market well!

Over the next two months GSB will conduct a Pre-Campaign Study. During the course of the study Paul will interview a number of households from the congregation and gather responses to a congregation-wide survey. The purpose of the study is to listen, learn,

and ultimately inform the financial goal for our planned capital appeal.

The Welcome 150 Lead Team is excited to be in motion on this work and invites you to reach out to any one of us with questions or for deeper conversations. We also encourage you to join us at Adult Forum on April 28.

**Katrina Tamminga Crook**  
Welcome 150 Lead Team Chair

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## Adult Forum: Welcome 150 Conversation

Sunday, April 28, 9:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

You've heard a little bit about the Welcome 150 Initiative in anticipation of Augustana's 150th birthday in 2028. Two teams have been working diligently to imagine how the Augustana facility can be refreshed and renewed so that our ministry is energized and vibrant! One specific focus of Augustana's Strategic Plan is *Caring For and Sharing our Facility: committed to welcoming new people to our faith community and caring for our neighbors and the world, we will improve the care of our current*

*facilities and look for meaningful ways to share them with the community.*

Join members of the Welcome 150 teams to learn about the many opportunities we have for the stewardship, care, and renovation of our remarkable facility and grounds, given to us by the faithful and generous people of Augustana who took bold steps to imagine and build our remarkable place of worship, ministry, and community outreach. Now it's time for a refresh!



# Study/Fellowship

## Adult Forum

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

- April 28 (last Adult Forum before summer—see details, previous article): Welcome 150 – **Katrina Crook, Kent Mueller, and Pastor Caitlin**
- May 12: No Adult Forum. Happy Mother's Day!
- May 19: No Adult Forum. Please join Pastor Gail's Farewell in Fellowship Hall.

## Women, Wine and Word

Women, Wine and Word will meet Thursday, May 16, 7–8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room to conclude the study of Revelation. Watch for an email with the suggested reading prior to the meeting. Also, please bring your ideas for our study in the fall. Many thanks to Pastor Karen for leading our educational and enlightening study on Revelation. Even if you have missed the previous sessions, please join us to wrap up. Bring a treat and/or a beverage to share. Bring your reusable cup—let's continue to care for creation.

Contact **Katy Lunsford** ([katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com](mailto:katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com)) for additional information. We will resume again in the fall.

## Book Group

Join us on Monday, May 20 in the Youth Room at 1 p.m. to discuss Kim Michele Richardson's historical fiction novel *The Book*



*Woman of Troublesome Creek*. For information, contact **Ellen Kastens** (303-475-7877 or [ekkastens@gmail.com](mailto:ekkastens@gmail.com)). All are welcome.

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-

old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry.

The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands (Goodreads).



## You're invited to the Lutheran Family Services Gala!

Join Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains' annual **Black and White Gala!** From adoption and foster care, refugees and asylees, and older adults, LFS helps families cross the threshold to a new life and stable future with support from people like us.

The gala is Friday, May 3 with cocktails at 5 p.m. and dinner, program, and auction at 6:30 p.m. at the Denver Grand Hyatt, Pinnacle Club (1750 Welton St., 38th Floor, Denver, 80202).

Tickets and details at <https://lfsco.ejoinme.org/lfsrmgala>.

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

### What's happening this month in Health Ministry?

- **MHFA Lunch Reunion** – Sunday, May 19 after 10:30 a.m. worship in the Anna Paulson Room with the return of instructor JR Kuo. If you were a MHFA (Mental Health First Aid) class participant in 2021 or 2022, watch for your invitation, and RSVP.
- **E4 (Mental Health Ministry Team)** meeting on Sunday, May 26 in the Ammerman Library at 9:15 a.m. Join us for a NAMI video screening of “Behind the Curtain: A Mental Health story of Family and Friendship.”

### Check out the important following information related to mental health!

- **NOTE:** Research from the American Heart Association shows that routine stress, including job strain and long working hours, may contribute to serious health problems, including experiencing **depression** for the first time. While working on fast-paced, demanding projects and constantly being connected to technologies can make the workplace exciting, it can also make it very challenging and come with a cost.
- **NOTE:** Setting healthy work/life balance and boundaries can assist with decreasing stress that leads to anxiety and depression. **But HOW?**

#### Three Steps to Creating Healthy Boundaries

One more email. One more text. One more date on the calendar. It's shocking how one more can quickly become 20 more things to do. Soon, it seems you can't get ahead or catch your breath. While work and personal life will inevitably throw some stressful situations your way, adding healthy boundaries into your daily routine will help your mental wellbeing and allow you to navigate challenging times when they do rise.

Overbooking and overpromising is a hard habit to break, but it can have real implications to your health, especially if you have anxiety and/or a stress-related disorder.



Everyone can benefit from setting healthy boundaries. Here are some practical tips:

1. **Understand your stressors** and define your limits. To start, write down what is causing you stress. Is it constantly checking your phone for work emails? A group text that never stops pinging with notifications? Seeing your stressors on paper may help you brainstorm ways to prevent them from happening. Your limit may be to only work a certain number of hours in the day or cut back screen time. By also writing your limits down, you can hold yourself accountable.
2. **Start with small, consistent adjustments.** Set yourself up for success with attainable changes. You'll be amazed at how even the smallest tweaks will snowball and impact your mental wellbeing. This could include disabling notifications on your phone.



3. **Practice self-compassion.** There will be tasks, events and situations that blindside you. There will be others you take on against your better judgment. Give yourself some grace! Acknowledge the situation then communicate to others how you're feeling and ask for help. We're all human. You may be surprised at how compassionate others are.

**Making your mental wellbeing a priority and demonstrating how to do so through your actions allows you to set an example for family, friends and coworkers.**

**For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through all generations.**  
**Psalm 100:5**

Sources:

- Mental Health First Aid (2020)
- Mental Health First Aid USA

## 60+ Ministry

### 60+ kicks off hiking season at Lair o' the Bear

Spring is here! Are you ready for some hiking? We are planning a hike at Lair o' the Bear Park, just west of Morrison on Wednesday, May 22. **Larry and LyNette Rasmussen** will be leading the hike. We will meet at the south parking lot of the church at 8:45 a.m. to car pool. The hike is rated easy to moderate with some hills. If you are interested, contact **Larry Rasmussen** ([larryrasmussen@q.com](mailto:larryrasmussen@q.com) or 612-802-2823).



“How does your  
garden grow?”

You are invited  
to our next

Bless the Years

**Wednesday, May 8, 11 a.m.**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
in Augustana's sanctuary

Special Music at Worship

Be our guests at a catered lunch  
by Jimmy's Café  
in Fellowship Hall after worship

Hope you can join us!

RSVP to Augustana's office  
(303-388-4678 or [info@augustanadenver.org](mailto:info@augustanadenver.org))  
by Wednesday, May 1

Hosts with transportation  
provided upon request

Cosponsored by 60+ and Health Ministries

**Augustana**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Compassion and Action with Our Neighbor (CAN) Ministry

## You can still support local and global neighbors for Undie Sunday!



CAN Ministry meets to plan congregational efforts that benefit hunger, poverty, access to resources, immigration, criminal justice, and advocacy in public policy.

Wow! Spring is such a busy time for the CAN Ministry Team, and this year is no exception!

### Undie Sunday and Personal Care Kits

Please don't forget about Undie Sunday and Personal Care Kits. The collection period has been extended to May 5. This year McMeen Elementary, George Washington High School, Foster Source, Ruby's Market and Lutheran World Relief will be recipients of our gifts.

### Lutheran Day at the Capitol

On March 18 members and friends of Augustana attended Lutheran Day at the Capitol. It was a day of learning about important legislation impacting our community and meeting our legislators. In addition, our team has supported Together Colorado by writing letters to our legislators and attending sessions at the Capitol.

### Easter "Baskets" for Warren Village

**Katherine Cruson** and her team collected 101 King Soopers cards totaling \$4,040 and received a

\$500 grant from the Thrivent Action Team. What a wonderful gift to the residents of Warren Village and First Step! Thank you, Katherine, the team, and Thrivent, as well as a big shout out to everyone who so generously donated.

### Summer plans

For the past three summers, the CAN Ministry has sponsored Summer of Service. This year, we are concentrating our efforts on the Augustana Homes Build Project. The entire CAN Ministry Team is looking forward to this new opportunity. Stay tuned for information about how you may get involved.

### Come to our June meeting

If you have questions, attend one of our meetings or contact **Laura Libby** ([laura.a.libby@gmail.com](mailto:laura.a.libby@gmail.com)) or **Annie Nessa** ([amnessa@comcast.net](mailto:amnessa@comcast.net)). Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, noon to 1:30 p.m. in Rooms 4 and 5. Everyone is welcome.

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## Thanks for Warren Village Easter Donations

Thank you to all Augustana members and friends who donated so generously to the Warren Village and First Step Easter "baskets." Through your kindness in giving, \$4,040 in \$40 King Soopers gift cards were given to the 101 single-parent families in Warren Village and First Step. In addition, **Don Troike** and **Emmett Cruson** each applied for \$250 Thrivent Action Team grants which were used to purchase 453 cans of corn, green beans, mandarin oranges, and pears. Thank you for helping make Easter special for these families!



## CAN Ministry collects Personal Care Kits for Undie Sunday, through May 5

Augustana's CAN Ministry continues to collect items for Personal Care Kits through Sunday, May 5. The kits contain

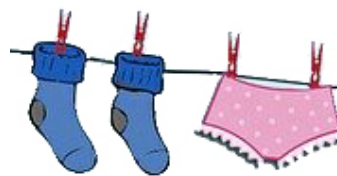
five items for personal care: **lightweight dark color bath sized towel (20" x 40" and 52" x 57")**, **two or three 8- or 9-oz. bars of soap, comb, toothbrush, nail clipper**. Put single items for PCK assembly and assembled kits at the communion altars.



**Lutheran World Relief** (associated with ELCA World Hunger) distributes the kits to refugees who have fled their homes for safety or to families whose homes are destroyed by disasters. Assembling PCKs is a great opportunity for friends and families with young children to become aware of the needs of others in the world and to share love by making a PCK.

See details on how to make a personal care kit at <https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>.

## Bring items for Undie Sunday by May 5!



Augustana's fifth annual Undie Sunday, hosted by CAN Ministry, continues through May 5.

Bring donations of kid-sized underwear, **socks, diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene pads or tampons**. With the recent migrant influx in Denver, CAN would like to specifically focus on collecting kid-sized undies and socks to be donated to our local school, McMeen Elementary, although we will gladly accept any donations to assist people of all ages. Diapers and wipes will be donated to Foster Source, and feminine products to Ruby's Market and George Washington High School pantry.

Bring items and place them around the altar through May 5. You may also order items online and have them delivered to Augustana (Attn: Undie Sunday).

## Racial Reconciliation in Colorado

**Sister Lee McNeil** and **Pastor Caitlin** were invited by Together Colorado to write an opinion piece for *The Colorado Sun* in support of the Racial Equity Study bill moving through the Colorado legislature this spring. Sister Lee and Pastor Caitlin are longtime friends in the work of transforming justice.

You may read their opinion article here:

<https://coloradosun.com/2024/03/21/opinion-colorado-black-communities-racial-equity-study/>.

## Human Dignity Delegates plan summer reading

The final meeting of Human Dignity Delegates for the program year is Sunday, May 19, noon–1 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. We will be discussing books, movies, and documentary suggestions for summer reading and viewing. Please bring your ideas to the meeting. We will also be providing an update from the Colorado Legislative session.

Contact **Katy Lunsford** ([katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com](mailto:katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com)) or **Beth Black** ([comosh@aol.com](mailto:comosh@aol.com)) for additional information or to provide your ideas prior to the meeting.



## Support Augustana Homes by supporting Holy Hammers' 25th Anniversary event!

Saturday, May 4, 5:30–9 p.m. at Augustana

Scan here to register  
by April 26.



Scan here to donate.



**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, and 2024 is a big year with big goals!

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, we are striving to raise \$150,000 to sponsor one of the eight townhomes Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver is building on Augustana's property.

Join in! Along with leasing our church property, and contributing through the Augustana Foundation, Augustana members and friends have a further opportunity to make a difference in the life of a hard-working family that will live in one of the Augustana Homes.



The celebration will include dinner, drinks, speakers from Habitat Metro Denver, music, and an opportunity for you to help us achieve this goal! Dress code is business casual. Scan the code to the left to register online.

For information, contact **Michael Zumwalt** (303-907-6305 or [michaelczumwalt@gmail.com](mailto:michaelczumwalt@gmail.com)).

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### Volunteer Site Build and Production Shop

Holy Hammers and Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver continue to partner to build single-family homes in Denver with volunteer slots available this spring and summer: Saturday, May 11 and 18 and June 22. Get details and sign up at least two weeks in advance of each date at <http://holyhammers.denver.volunteerhub.com/>. All levels of talent are welcome.

For additional information, contact **Michael Zumwalt** (303-907-6305 or [michaelczumwalt@gmail.com](mailto:michaelczumwalt@gmail.com)).

# Augustana Homes

## Dirt is moved, pipe is laid—retaining wall comes next

There has been a lot of dirt moved and pipe laid over the last month on the site for Augustana Homes. The Habitat for Humanity crews have made great progress recently, and the difficult underground site utilities work will be completed very soon.

In the middle of April, construction began on the large retaining wall on the south side of the site, and this portion of the project will take roughly three weeks to complete. The traffic engineering work will begin the first week in May, and Dakota will be repaired. Once the retaining wall is completed, the crews will begin work on the foundations for the units, and the construction of the piers and grade beams for the units will last for an estimated 10 weeks. This work is scheduled to be completed by the middle of July.

The vertical construction portion of the project, which includes the framing, sheathing, exterior trim, etc., is now projected to begin approximately July 22, 2024. We will keep updating the schedule as the work continues, keeping everyone up to

speed as to when the volunteer opportunities will be available to work with Habitat for Humanity and the new homeowners. Stay tuned!

## JEWISHColorado and Augustana Homes—Neighbors helping neighbors!

JEWISHcolorado shares this article about Augustana Homes which was in their newsletter about momentum in their organization to volunteer during the vertical build. Eric Kessler, President of JEWISHcolorado, Shayna Wible from Habitat for Humanity, and Pastor Caitlin were interviewed for this piece:

JEWISHcolorado's Real Estate & Construction Network (RECN) to help Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver build eight new affordable homes on land owned by Augustana Lutheran Church—JEWISHcolorado's next-door neighbor.

“This is a great opportunity to give back,” Kessler says. “The members of RECN don’t usually wear tool belts, but building homes is connected to what we do, and this is an opportunity to positively impact our city, county, and neighborhood . . .”

Read the complete article at <https://www.jewishcolorado.org/how-jewishcolorado-can-help-families-buy-affordable-homes-and-be-a-good-neighbor/>.







## Creation Care

# Welcome Spring! And all the new growth around us!

It is good to enjoy the beauty of nature for its own sake, but we can use it as an opportunity to praise God for creating such beauty in this world. Some of God's most amazing miracles are happening right now, all around you and in your own backyard!

Hopefully everyone gets to dig in the dirt and work the soil at least a little bit. Or perhaps you have a big garden. May digging in the soil provide an opportunity for us to actively engage in caring for the earth and being good stewards.

**Did you know there are more microbes in a teaspoon of healthy soil than there are people on the planet?** These microbes are an important part of the natural system that draws carbon down out of the atmosphere and into the ground where it belongs. Food growing practices that conserve or regenerate the soil support the health of these tiny creatures and the system they are part of. Healthy soil helps solve the climate crisis. Using conservation practices to grow our food restores the carbon balance by reducing carbon loss from the soil and drawing down carbon from the atmosphere where it is a problem, putting it in the soil where it is a solution.

*Find my way in nature's chain,  
tune my body and my brain  
to the music from the land.  
Plant your rows straight and long,  
temper them with prayer and song.  
Mother Earth will make you strong  
if you give her love and care.*

Source: [FaithClimateActionWeek.org](https://FaithClimateActionWeek.org)

## Quiz yourself about how much you know about our earth!

Did you enjoy Earth Day in April? The learning keeps on growing. Please enjoy these simple quizzes. Test your knowledge. Learn more. For example, did you know there are over 300 species of turtles? Enjoy alone or with others—including children—at this web site:

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes/>.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>Sunday Faith Formation</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	9:30am	GIFT   Confirmation   Breakfast Club	9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel		9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	5:30pm Holy Hammers 25th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser
	<b>Sunday Children and Youth Music Ministry</b>		9:45am Augustana Firm Believers		11am Bulletin Assembly	
	9am	Cherubs   Choristers   Chancel Handbells	6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir			
<b>5</b> 8am <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 9am <b>Worship/Communion</b> Augustana Instrumental Ensemble 9:15am <b>Faith Formation</b> <b>End-of-Year Bash</b> 9:15am <b>Congregational Meeting</b> 10:30am <b>Worship/Communion</b> 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Augustana Knitters 1pm <b>Children, Youth &amp; Family</b> <b>Variety Show and Dessert</b> <i>See Music Ministry above</i>	<b>6</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Welcome Connection 4pm Welcome 150 Lead Team 7pm Augustana Foundation Governance	<b>7</b> 7pm Augustana Foundation Grantmaking Committee	<b>8</b> 9am AELC Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am <b>Bless the Years</b> 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> 2pm The Tower deadline 60+ Ministry	<b>10</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Ascension of Our Lord</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 8am <b>Worship/Communion</b> 10:30am <b>Worship/Communion</b> Noon Executive Committee <i>See Faith Formation above</i>	<b>13</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	<b>14</b> 7pm Augustana Foundation Board	<b>15</b> 9am AELC Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 10am Sarah Circle 6pm Augustana Early Learning Center Board 7pm Women, Wine and Word	<b>17</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Day of Pentecost</b> 8am <b>Worship/Communion</b> 9:15am <b>Gratitude and Godspeed</b> <b>to Pastor Gail</b> 10:30am <b>Worship/Communion</b> Noon Health Ministry Noon Music Ministry Celebration	<b>20</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Book Group	<b>21</b> 1pm Tower Assembly 5:30pm Worship & Music Committee 7pm Congregation Council	<b>22</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	<b>25</b> 3pm Wedding
<b>26</b> <b>The Holy Trinity</b> 8am <b>Worship/Communion</b> 9:15am E4 Mental Health 10:30am <b>Worship/Communion</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>28</b> 7am Rachel Circle	<b>29</b> 8:45am Augustana Firm Believers	<b>30</b> 7:30am Foot Care Clinic	<b>31</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	

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- 25** Jake Jansen  
Earl Pilloud
- 26** Paul Whitehurst

- 27** Pat Van Dyck
  - 28** Karen Bassford  
Timothy Edstrom
  - 29** Jayme Howard
  - 30** Margaret Ellerbruch  
Christelle Menth
- If your name should  
have been on this list  
but wasn't, please call  
Augustana's office  
(303-388-4678).*