

“Let’s do this!”

Council enthusiastically approves “Welcome 150” capital campaign

Augustana’s Congregation Council made a **groundbreaking** decision on June 18, nearly 67 years after the original 1957 **groundbreaking** of our Augustana Lutheran Church building. Council authorized a major capital campaign to renew and refresh our aging facility.

Our GSB fundraising consultants presented to Council the report of their “pre-campaign study.” The report indicated that the people of Augustana Lutheran Church have a deep love for the congregation and its ministries. Most important, church leaders and members expressed excitement about renewing the facility and supporting a campaign.

Senior Pastor Caitlin Trussell expressed her enthusiasm about the campaign with a rousing, “Let’s do this!” She explained that



continued, page 3



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

5000 E. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80246

Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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, July 11, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the August 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

Jack Kusek

Betty Boyd

Roger Lipker

Janet Flesch

Pr. Caitlin Trussell

Jayme Howard

Brian Willoughby

Sean-Casey King

Michael Zumwalt

Staff:

- **Caitlin Trussell**, Pastor
- **Karen Ullestad**, Assisting Pastor (interim)
- **William Crossen**, Finance Administrator
- **Christine Peters**, Building Systems Administrator
- **Deacon 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:

- Dale Arden
- Sandy Barker
- Elizabeth Frank
- Jayme Howard
- Rich Lamphere
- Don Munson
- Win Nyquist
- Orvid Olson
- Ursula Parks
- Ray Rew
- Willa Rinehart
- Helma Sjodin
- Tom Swedko
- Rachel Swenson and Baby Riley
- Mavis Tell

For comfort and courage:

- Beth Warren in the death of her grandmother, Doris Daniel
- Family and friends of Andy Frampton (grandson of the late Dick Raiter)
- Rebecca Shandrick in the death of her aunt, Shirley Demario
- Family and friends of Sandy Heitzman in her death
- Vicki Hildner in the death of her friend, Allison Kessler (friend of)

- Ron and Sue Ann Glusenkamp in the death of their friend, Glenn Kraft Sr.
- Dick Larson in the death of his son, Robert Larson
- Julie Churchill in the death of her mother, Poly Mead
- Family and friends of Bill Stephens in his death
- Shanna VanderWel in the death of her aunt, Penny Sweetser
- Don Troike in the death of his brother, Steven Troike

Got prayer?

Two ways Augustana prays

Sunday Worship Prayers:

Fill out a worship slip. Add your prayer request. Names are included for two Sundays. You could also call Augustana's office (303-388-4678) or email your request to Julie (macdougall@augustanadenver.org), Lyn (goodrum@augustanadenver.org), AND Pastor Karen (pastorkaren@augustanadenver.org).

Weekly Prayer Chain:

Email your requests to pastorkaren@augustanadenver.org. These prayer requests are emailed every week to the Prayer Chain members, Congregation Council, and staff who pray over them.

Pastor Karen is newly leading the prayer ministries formerly led by Pastor Caitlin for the past 11 years. Augustana's prayers take care and tending by members and staff who double and triple check them.

Repaired pavers returned to Memorial Garden

The headstones that were removed to have the engravings touched up have been returned to the Memorial Garden. We hope you will be pleased with the results. Seki adjusted the sprinkler system so the water doesn't flow onto the stones, hopefully reducing the occurrences of erosion on them. And, the glass flower containers have been re-installed for your flower bouquets.

Please give extra thanks to Seki for all of his hard work and dedication in managing all of these efforts and to Ron and Karen Lambert for their regular gardening; together they keep the Memorial Garden a place of tranquility, meditation and spiritual reflection.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Julie** in Augustana's office (303-388-4678 or macdougall@augustanadenver.org).



Rejoice with . . .

- Parents Rachel Swenson and Ryan Berman and great-grandfather Pastor Ron Swenson in the birth of Riley Marshal Berman-Swenson, June 6
- Madeline Elizabeth Hoffman (daughter of Robin and Ed Hoffman) and Liam Jakob Leigh Hill in their marriage in London, June 15

Thank you for the gifts!

Music Ministry

- in memory of Arlien Johnson, Robert Larson, Bill Stephens



Council enthusiastically approves "Welcome 150" capital campaign

continued from cover

caring for our facility strengthens our ministry today and fuels our capacity for witness in the Denver community long into the future.

"The facility projects align with our lively strategic plan that included input from the congregation, launched in 2019, and was updated in 2022," she said. "I'm excited to continue shaping our future together around God's call to welcome everyone!"

The campaign projects will fall within these seven categories:

- Curb Welcome
- Energy Efficiency
- Fellowship Hall Refresh
- Hospitality and Accessibility
- Meeting Spaces and Classrooms
- Organ Refurbishment
- Worship Renewal

After several months of planning and preparation, the campaign will commence this fall. Watch for continued communication throughout the summer about the campaign.

"Let's do this!"

Pastor Caitlin

Celebration!

How sweet it is to have something to celebrate! I'm thankful to the many, many people who pulled together my Festival Blessing and Rite of Installation along with the reception following. Staff and church members made sure that Augustana's hospitality shone brightly. I've received positive comments galore from colleagues, friends, and family about their experience with us from parking greetings to worship to cookies and punch. Thank you!

Many folks had conflicts with travel and summer festivities and couldn't attend. I invite you to watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHJ8I8fCY1w>.

Bishop Jim Gonia's sermon is worth the time along with Jack Kusek's scripture readings. The Rite of



Installation begins after the sermon song and includes my remarks.

Please pray for our congregation, staff, and me as we all get up to speed with my new role. The process of letting go of things I used to do while onboarding new responsibilities is quite a mash up and not nearly as elegant as Sunday worship would suggest. I've also moved offices! Come take a peek when you get a chance.

I'm eager for our new season as co-workers in the gospel. God's grace is always worth celebrating!

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin



Refining the Associate Pastor Call

An Update from Pastor Caitlin

Calling an Associate Pastor is a long-term commitment that we make to that pastor and vice versa. In conversation with staff, congregation leadership, and two of Augustana's retired pastors, I've developed a nine-month plan to refine the Associate Pastor's call. Copies of the plan details can be picked up in Augustana's office or emailed. This timeline also allows me to get my feet firmly planted in my new role before mentoring a new colleague. Here's the abbreviated scoop.

The Call Committee and I moved quickly to prepare the paperwork, identifying five areas for the new pastor:

1. Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry a.k.a. Social Ministry

2. Pastoral Care
3. Communications/Media
4. Adult Learning and Small Groups
5. Worship – a collaborative role with the Senior Pastor and Director of Music

Then Shanna requested to return to full time, excited to expand her Deacon role in ways that enhance her current call as Director of Youth and Family Ministry. I caught Shanna's excitement and began discerning the possibilities with others—Bill Crossen (Finance Administrator), Bridge Pastor Gail Mundt, Heidi Johnson (Council President), Katy Lunsford (Call Committee, Chair), Lisa Boe-Sims (Personnel, Chair), Pastor Kent Mueller,

continued, next page

Pastor Karen Ullestad, the Congregation Council (May 21), the staff (May 22), and the Call Committee (June 2).

The end result?

1. **Deacon Shanna VanderWel**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, will integrate Compassion and Action with our Neighbor (CAN) Ministry into her role for a nine-month test run. Along with the intergenerational possibilities, youth and young adults often assess congregational authenticity by their activities of community/world engagement.
2. **Pastor Karen Ullestad**, Assisting Pastor for Pastoral Care and Adult Learning, 15–20 hours/week that includes preaching and presiding.
3. **Pastor Kent Mueller**, Assisting Pastor for Communications Technology and the Arts, 15 hours/week that includes preaching and presiding.
4. The four of us—one deacon and three pastors—will also meet monthly to further collaborate on Children, Youth, and Family Ministry involvement.
5. During the Welcome 150 campaign, Augustana will benefit from being served by this team of four leaders who are already embedded in the life of the congregation and will require minimal onboarding.
6. I will meet with the Call Committee every three months to continue the discernment that includes observations and hard questions about what we're learning and how it can be put to good use for calling the next Associate Pastor.

Please continue to pray for our congregation, for the staff, and for me as I let go of my former work and get up to speed in my new role.

Peace,

Pastor Caitlin



Pastries with Pastor Caitlin: Refining the Call for the Associate Pastor

Sundays, July 7 or 21, 9:15–10 a.m.,
Anna Paulson Room

Pastor Caitlin will discuss the plan and respond to ideas, concerns, and questions. As time allows, we can also talk about other Augustana happenings.

Welcome Connection

Search for treasure on Augustana's website

Happy Summer! Welcome Connection's challenge for July is a sort of treasure hunt. Each Sunday there will be five questions in the bulletin that can be answered on Augustana's website: augustanadenver.org. Write the answers on the paper, cut it out, and turn it in to the box in the office by the end of July. At the end of July, we will draw one paper from the entries, and that person will win a prize! Have fun! Visit the website often! Each visit helps promote Augustana when people search for Lutheran churches in the Denver area.

Congregation President

Augustana ministry eases into summer rhythm



Congregation President
Heidi Johnson

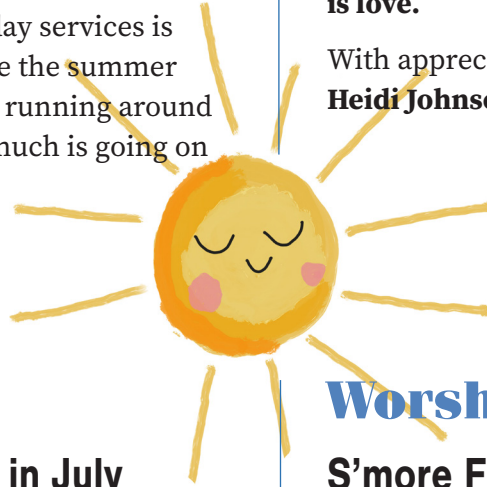
Augustana has had quite a month! I see the church is buzzing with activity and excitement as we begin the summer months. Pastor Caitlin's installation was a fantastic way to kick off the warm weather, and it was incredible to see so many new faces at the service. Bishop Gonia's message was a moving tribute with a lot of optimism for our congregation and our work in the greater community. After such a wonderful celebration, it seems strange to see fewer members in the pews, but summer does take us all in different directions! We notice that attendance at Sunday services is a little bit slimmer, the choirs have the summer off, and we don't see as many kids running around for faith formation. However, so much is going on behind the scenes.

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At the time of this writing, Council is preparing to hear a presentation from the Welcome 150 Lead team on what they learned from the survey and recommended next steps. Pastor Karen has begun her Assistant Pastor role, and Augustana Homes continues to move forward by hosting a lunchtime construction kick off. While we all take time for more rest and relaxation during the summer, please know that the Council, our dedicated staff, the Early Learning Center, committees, and countless volunteers continue to move important projects forward on behalf of our Augustana community.

As always, I am in awe of the inspired work of everyone who makes Augustana more than a place of worship, but a true community that believes in the message from Pastor Caitlin's installation: **God is love.**

With appreciation,
Heidi Johnson



Music Ministry

Summer Choir continues in July

Sundays, July 7, 14, 21, and 28, 9:45 a.m.,
Christ Chapel

You're invited to rehearse an anthem with Augustana's Summer Choir on Sunday morning and then sing it at 10:30 a.m. worship. This ad hoc choral ensemble, led by Director of Music and Organist **Andy Peters**, is open to all ages and anyone wishing to sing. There's no need to reserve a spot; just show up for rehearsal.

Worship

S'more Fun and Worship

Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24, and 31, Quist Park
Supper 5:30 p.m. | Worship 6 p.m.

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).

Pastor Karen

*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 739

During these next few months we have extra opportunities to play in God's garden. Many of us will vacation in the woods, the beach, or in our own backyards. This hymn reminds us that wherever we are in God's creation, we have been given a gift—to tend, to ooh and aah over, to plant, to splash in, and so much more. Time with our families, perhaps away from the usual busy-ness of our work and school routines, gives us a chance to share ideas together. Ideas that will use the earth gently. Plantings that will nourish our yards. Activities that will not disturb the habitat.



Our Care of Creation team has given us many ideas for how to use what God has given us. We are grateful to this team who helps us honor creation now, and sustain it for our children, for tomorrow. You can connect with the team by contacting **Pr. Bonita Bock**

(bonita.bock@wartburg.edu) and **Robin Hoffman** (rhoffmania@icloud.com). (See also [page 19](#).)



As verse three sings, **health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.** Amen, and may it be so.

Pastor Karen Ullestad

pastorkaren@augustanadenver.org

Children, Youth, Family



Kids in the Courtyard will continue each Sunday through August 25, 9:30–10:15 a.m. with games, snacks and a Bible story. Parents willing to serve as a second adult and to bring snacks can sign up with **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org

[org](mailto:shanna@augustanadenver.org) or 303-388-4678 ext. 107).

Blessings for Back-to-School

Augustana will share Back-to-School Blessings for teachers and students of all ages on Sunday, August 8 during 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship. Come and receive a blessing and some backpack bling for the start of your school year!

Bibles for children in Kindergarten and 3rd grade

As part of Augustana's milestone ministry, Bibles will be presented to our Kindergarten and 3rd grade families, Sunday, August 25 at 10:30 a.m. worship. All kids entering Kindergarten and 3rd grade are asked to RSVP your attendance to **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) and include how you want your child's name in the Bible by Thursday, August 15.

Get ready to plan Mission Trip 2025!

Youth in grades 6–12 and a parent are encouraged to mark their calendars for Sunday, September 8, noon. We will meet in the Youth Room to share mission trip opportunities for Summer 2025! Please come to listen and to share your input and enthusiasm.

Stewardship

Remember your summer gifts to Augustana

Summer lightens our days and slows our pace while the ministries of our congregation continue. Please remember to give as you're able. If you're new to giving, try it out at \$10/month. If you're used to giving, try a \$10/month increase or a special summer gift to sustain our thriving ministries. Gifts both small and large combine to do great things. One-time gifts or automatic donations may be given at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4QD/home>.

Stewardship Committee News

Larry Rasmussen is the new Chairperson for Stewardship! We're incredibly grateful to **Nick Massie** who faithfully served in this role for six years. **Bill Crossen, Greta Devol, and Michael Gentes** are continuing on Stewardship, joined by new committee members **Jim Dierker, Jo Martin, Dale Penny, and Pastor Caitlin**. Please pray for our newly re-formed team who lead the congregation in the spiritual practices of giving money, time, and talent.



Thank you for your May offerings which supported 60+ Ministry's Bless the Years worship and lunch event, a variety show and cake auction hosted by Children, Youth and Family, and a farewell reception to thank and honor Pastor Gail!



Income Statement for the Year-to-Date Period through May 31						
	May 31, 2024		May 2024	Year-to-Date		YTD 2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$80,469	\$103,484	\$81,715	\$519,781	\$558,560	\$503,398
Expenditures	112,342	106,243	87,348	554,618	560,880	516,530
Net Income (loss)	\$(31,873)	\$(2,759)	\$(5,633)	\$(34,837)	\$(2,320)	\$(13,132)
<p>May was another difficult month as we recorded a deficit of (\$31,900), (\$29,100) worse than budgeted. Revenue was (\$23,000) less than expected due to a shortfall in offerings while expenses were (\$6,100) over budget due to maintenance costs. 2024 expenses are higher than 2023 actual expenses because we are fully staffed in 2024 and were down several positions in 2023.</p> <p>For the year-to-date period, we have recorded a net deficit of (\$34,800), (\$32,500) unfavorable to budget. Revenue was (\$38,800) lower than expected while expenses were \$6,300 lower than budget. The revenue variance is driven by a shortfall in offerings of (\$31,100); analysis of giving in the prior year 2023 suggests that about 2/3 of the variance is timing and we should see that rebound later in the year.</p>						

AUGUSTANAARTS

Augustana Arts unveils new season!

Augustana Arts is thrilled to announce the 2024–2025 Concert Series season! Join us for engaging concerts and musical events including highlights such as:

- Three immersive concerts by **Stratus Chamber Orchestra** where the audience will be invited to sit amongst the musicians.
- Collaborations with musicians and organizations like the 100-member **Colorado Springs Chorale** and **Neyla Pekarek**, former vocalist and cellist of The Lumineers.
- Two Christmas performances: **Holiday Tunes**, a performance by Stratus Chamber Orchestra for kids and their grown-ups, and **A Big Band Holiday**, a swinging Christmas performance by the Denver Jazz Orchestra—both concerts at Augustana Lutheran Church.
- Halloween performances for adults and children alike, including a showing of the famous 1922 Dracula silent film **Nosferatu** with live organ accompaniment by the church's own **Andy Peters**—costumes encouraged!
- **Music of the Vine**, a tasting of American wines paired with music from The Great American Songbook, performed by a pianist and a vocalist led by Stratus Chamber Orchestra's own conductor (and resident sommelier!) **Adam Torres**.

CHECK OUT THE SEASON



Join us at Augustana Lutheran Church in October and December and in other close-by venues throughout the season. We're committed to accessibility and many of our programs are a part of our Pay What You Choose ticketing initiative. Tickets go on sale July 1 at AugustanaArts.org/events.

Volunteer Spotlight: Emmett Cruson

Although you may most recognize Emmett Cruson from his 45 years as an Augustana usher (35 of them as the usher coordinator), Emmett has served Augustana in almost every capacity!

For 35–40 years, Emmett also drove Augustana’s vans. “Van driving was a wonderful ministry, and I enjoyed it thoroughly because the people wanted to go to church.” On Sunday mornings, Augustana members and friends could ride the van—later a bus—from senior living campuses to worship at Augustana.

Emmett helped with planting flowers on our Augustana campus for many years. The large planters on the patio west of the Anna Paulson Room and those on the deck west of Christ Chapel were beautiful during the summers.

Emmett has also served on Augustana’s Senior Ministry Committee which is now called 60+ Ministry. “I started serving senior ministry lunches when I retired in 1995, and I loved doing it. I’ve

enjoyed serving on senior ministry a lot. We’d have a monthly day trip for seniors, and I’d drive the van to Rainbow Trail for our annual senior retreat. We’d rent two vans and take about 30 people.” More recently, Emmett helped organize the three big

annual “Bless the Years” lunches, and it was Emmett’s suggestion to hire Jimmy’s Café to provide the catering.

When asked which volunteer roles he liked the most, he paused. “That’s a hard choice. I’ve enjoyed them all.” The Crusons were active in Tri-R where Emmett was president. “I’ve served on council 12 years—including as president twice—and most of the committees at one time or another. I served on the Foundation board six years and that was very satisfying.”

Also, Emmett mentioned how much he has enjoyed Augustana’s

pastors and the wonderful staff members over these many years.

“The Music program is definitely a highlight for us at Augustana. Music Ministry was important to our kids, and we’d go to almost all of the events. I loved being a parent and watching my kids do all the things they did.” Emmett really enjoyed being in the senior choir led by Arvid Brekke and then LeEtta Choi. “Arvid made choir into a special thing. There were about 60 people.”

The Crusons’ connection to Augustana began in 1965. “Katherine was attending here when we met at Cherry Creek Junior High School. Katherine loved Augustana because of the music program. We had our first date in December 1965, became engaged in February, and were married in Christ



Volunteer Spotlight

Beginning in this month, we turn the spotlight on one of our dedicated volunteers, who give so much of their time, talents and gifts to help Augustana, its members, and the community in many ways.

When someone’s efforts really shine, let us know! Contact Augustana’s office (macdougall@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678).

“Augustana is kind of like a giant family to us. People who attend Augustana are so special and always have been.”

Chapel in June 1966.” Emmett joined Augustana in the spring of 1966.

His favorite Augustana memories include their wedding in Christ Chapel on June 25, 1966, and the baptisms and confirmations of their three kids, Kay, David, and Amy, and also the baptisms of granddaughters Emma and Abigail Beswick. “Those were all special things.”

To Emmett, having a fulfilling life means having a meaningful occupation, having a wonderful family and enjoying raising them, and doing as much for other people as you can. “Having a good marriage and successful kids is a big pleasure.

“Augustana is kind of like a giant family to us. People who attend Augustana are so special and always have been. Most of the people in the Memorial Garden were our friends. There’s been so many people that we have known and loved who are no longer with us.

“I would encourage everyone to get involved at Augustana as much as possible. What makes faith important is learning and sharing together.”



60+ Ministry

Save the date

Be our guest! You are invited!

- Thursday, August 15, 2024
- 11:30 a.m.* in Augustana’s Fellowship Hall
- Devotions led by 60+ team member **Don Troike**
- Delicious catered lunch by **Jimmy’s on Jersey Café**
- Luncheon entertainment quartet presented by Augustana Arts
- RSVP to Augustana’s office (303-388-4678) by Sunday, August 11

***Please note:** A Bless the Years worship service does NOT precede this luncheon.

Our next Bless the Years communion service and luncheon will be in Advent on Thursday, December 12. Mark your calendars now to reserve this festive Advent/Christmas event!



Nine enjoy June wildflower hike

Chautauqua Park in Boulder

Nine of us enjoyed a hike to see wildflowers in bloom on a beautiful, though hot, Colorado day. With books and phone apps in-hand, we tried to identify those flowers we saw. The backdrop of the Flatirons against the blue sky and green meadows and trees made for a memorable hike. Thanks also to **Rick Farrand**, retired geologist, for an interesting geologic history of the Flatirons.

We are planning for another wildflower hike in July when they bloom at a higher elevation. If you have a favorite hiking location and are willing to lead a hike, contact **Don Troike** (don.troike@gmail.com).



Health Ministry

That It May Be Well With You this Summer! July is National Therapeutic Recreation and UV Safety Month!

UV rays can hurt your eyes! Excess sun exposure can put you at risk for eye cancer, cataracts, sunburned eyes, and growths on or near the eye. Be sure to wear sunglasses when outside and select sunglasses that provide 100% UV or UV400 protection or block both UV-A and UV-B rays.

Here are additional tips to protect your eyes from UV damage any season:

- Wear a hat along with your sunglasses. Broad-brimmed hats are best.
- Stay in the shade!
- Protect children and senior citizens as well with hats and sunglasses.

- Know that clouds don't block UV light. The sun's rays can pass through haze and clouds.
- Sunlight is strongest midday to early afternoon, at higher altitudes (HELLO COLORADANS!), and when reflected off of water, ice or snow.
- Never look directly into the sun. This can damage the eye's retina and cause serious injury call solar retinopathy.
- Avoid tanning beds! These beds pose the same risks to your eyes and body as outdoor UV light.

Resource: <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/sun>



Outdoor Workday Volunteers

Top: Seki, John, Max, and Lisa

Middle: Beth and Stanley

Bottom: Karen

Facilities/Property Committee

Outdoor spruce-up and parking lot patrol make for an active June

June was a very busy month for the Property Committee at Augustana this year. On top of the normal getting-ready-for-summer activities, two large and important events took place.

The first, Outdoor Work Day, was held June 2, and was extremely successful and productive. Participants came early, and worked hard on cleaning up, trimming back, and touching up many areas of the Augustana campus. The Augustana Early Learning Center's playground, the courtyard area, and the entire north side of the facility were the focus of the group of volunteers who put their elbow grease and sweat into making these areas look fantastic!

The second event was Pastor Caitlin's installation on June 8, and what a wonderful celebration this

was. Due to the Greek Festival being in full swing at the same time, there were many people in the area, and with all parking being at a premium this Saturday, we were forced to play "parking cops" to ensure that we had plenty of parking in our lots for the attendees of the installation. Our volunteers worked in the hot sun for several hours to make sure this was a reality, and all who attended were able to find spots available for the ceremony.

The Property Committee sends out a big thank you for all the help that we received from the energetic volunteers that helped us out. Your efforts are much appreciated! Thank you!

Craig Tamminga,
Facility Manager

Construction Kickoff for Augustana Homes





Celebrated on June 18, the uplifting lunch hour kickoff hosted by Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver was well attended by multifaith and Hilltop neighbors, Augustana members and friends, city representatives, Holy Hammers, and US Bank employees. US Bank donated \$500,000 for the build! Pastor Ann and Pastor Caitlin shared their allotted time to offer inspiring remarks on behalf of Augustana. It was great to see Pastor Ann and catch up with her too!

CBS4 turned up to cover the event, interviewing Pastor Caitlin and others afterwards. Denver7 and 9News ran segments that morning. You can view the CBS4 segment here:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/video/habitat-for-humanity-of-metro-denver-kicks-off-newest-affordable-housing-development/>





Dear Augustana,

Thank you for your organization's generous gift of \$2,500 to Habitat Metro Denver in support of Holy Hammers 2024! Every donation helps hardworking families in our community build or preserve affordable homeownership. Our mission—building homes, community, and hope—would not be possible without the generous support of donors like you.

Your kindness and generosity ensure we can build and repair safe, affordable homes for families who have faced instability and hardship due to the rising cost of living in Metro Denver. With your gift, we are helping homeowners build savings, stability and security.

Thank you for helping families build strength, stability, and independence through affordable homeownership. We are so grateful that you share our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

On behalf of our staff, board, and homeowners - thank you for being a Habitat partner!

Sincerely,

Jaime G. Gomez CEO

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Augustana Homes now on our website!

Please note that we have created a new tab on our Augustana website called "Augustana Homes," located at the top, where you can find information related to the development. There are a couple of links included that direct you to the Habitat for Humanity – Metro Denver website as well as the volunteer hub where you will soon find dates available for volunteering at our Augustana Homes site. Stay tuned!

While awaiting opportunities for Augustana Homes we have the following dates available for the New Construction site, Mountain View Homes (2101 S Joliet St, Aurora, CO, 80014), 7:50 a.m.–3:30 p.m.:

- Saturday, July 20 (*Sign up by July 6.*)
- Saturday, August 10 (*Sign up by July 27.*)

To register visit <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>.

Deadline to sign up is two weeks prior. The minimum age for working at a building site is 16, 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, contact **Michael Zumwalt** (303- 907- 6305) or michaelczumwalt@gmail.com).



Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors

New Signage for the Soup Shelf

The Soup Shelf will proudly display a new sign within a few weeks. The new sign will be written in both English and Spanish. On the inside of the cabinet, information regarding long-term assistance will be displayed and available. Hopefully, this effort will eliminate confusion and welcome our visitors.

Fall Activities

School Backpacks and Supplies

For many years Sarah Circle has sponsored Augustana's School Backpacks and School Supplies collection. This July will be no exception. In the next few weeks, you will again see information about how you may help children prepare for the coming school year. (See also [page 18](#).)

Augustana Early Learning Center (AELC) and McMeen Elementary Staff Appreciation Day

For the first time, CAN Ministry will provide breakfast or lunch to the teachers and staff of Augustana's Early Learning Center and McMeen Elementary. The AELC Staff's dedication to their students makes them truly unsung heroes. They

quietly go about the work of educating our children and receive little recognition.

McMeen Elementary has forty-plus languages spoken within their school population. In many classrooms a single teacher may be responsible for 35 students, and for many of these children, English may not be their primary language. According to school staff, because of relocation and other circumstances, many children exhibit behavior issues. The CAN Ministry would like to say "Thank You" and recognize their contribution to our neighborhood.

May God bless each and every teacher.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday – September 8

Please plan to participate in this fun, multi-generational activity. As in years past, Don Troike will coordinate this activity. Look for additional information in the ePistle and Sunday announcements.

If you have questions or want additional information about Augustana's CAN Ministry, contact **Annie Nessa** (amnessa@comcast.net). The next meeting will be held Sunday, August 4, noon–1:30 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. Everyone is welcome.

Now collecting school supplies for refugee and foster children!



Support refugee and foster children as they head back to school this fall! Sarah Circle and CAN Ministry are collecting backpacks and school supplies for Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM). Items are due Sunday, July 21.

1. If you wish to donate \$25 or \$50 gift cards from Target or Walmart, place them in the offering plate on Sunday or deliver to the church office during the week. The gift cards will be used by LFSRM staff to purchase additional needed items for the backpacks.
2. The following items for elementary school students may be left in Augustana's office in July. Deadline is Sunday, July 21.

Supplies for Elementary School

- ☐ 1 new backpack
- ☐ 1 subject notebook (2-3)
- ☐ Pencils and pencil case
- ☐ 1 package of colored highlighters
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Pocket folders (4)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ 1 box of washable markers
- ☐ 1 box of dry erase markers
- ☐ Glue sticks (2-3)
- ☐ Ear buds or headphones (1)
- ☐ 1 package of wide ruled paper
- ☐ Composition notebook (2)
- ☐ Box of tissues
- ☐ Disinfectant wipes

Thrivent Financial is donating \$250 for this project.

Thank you for helping these students through your donations!

A Summer Reading Invitation from Augustana's Human Dignity Delegates

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Book Discussion: Sunday, August 18, 11:45 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

Everyone is welcome. Bring a lunch or a snack to share.

The Cost of Discipleship (1937) examines the commitment to follow Jesus' teachings. Exploring "cheap grace" versus "costly grace," Bonhoeffer argues that genuine discipleship includes personal sacrifice and living one's faith in the world, while the local church is a place where individuals can learn to put faith in action and make a difference in their community.

Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran theologian and pastor who lived in Nazi Germany. He is

widely admired for his opposition to Hitler and the Nazis, resisting their influence on the Protestant Church as he founded the Confessing Church. His resistance led to his arrest and imprisonment in the Flossian concentration camp. Bonhoeffer was executed in April 1945 just weeks prior to the concentration camp's liberation by Allied forces. If Lutherans had saints, he'd likely be one of them.

Contact **Beth Black** (comosh@aol.com) or **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com) for additional information.

Note: A copy of *The Cost of Discipleship* is available in the Bonhoeffer section of Augustana's Ammerman library!

Care of Creation

Care of Creation and Compost Colorado Partnership

Did you know that in addition to Augustana's partnership with Compost Colorado to collect Augustana's compost and turn it into organic compost that can be returned to enrich and enhance our soils, Compost Colorado has other earth friendly items for your consideration? Take a look at their website at Compost-Colorado.com for hypoallergenic unscented dish soap, laundry detergent, hand soap and body wash made from renewable plant and earth mineral-derived ingredients. They also offer Colorado honey from Free Range Beehives, and other earth friendly products.

And most remarkable of all, since April 2023, Augustana has diverted 18,035 pounds from landfill

to compost. That's over 9 tons!! What a great partnership! Thank you for your participation!

*For you Creator God,
the valleys laugh and sing,
and the trees of the field clap their hands.*

*Your earth summons us to break silence
and be one with the song of creation.
We too give you thanks and praise.*

*So gladly we join our voices
to those of earth, sea, and sky,
in the universal hymn of praise
which echoes through time and eternity.*

(From Prayer of Thanksgiving, Iona Abbey Worship Book, pg 41)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Welcome Connection 4pm Welcome 150 Lead Team	2	3 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	4 Independence Day - office closed -	5 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	6
7 8am Pentecost 7 Worship/Communion 9:15am Pastries with Pastor Caitlin 9:30am Kids in the Courtyard 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Executive Council	8 9am-4pm Vacation Bible School 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	9 9am-4pm Vacation Bible School 7pm Augustana Foundation Executive Committee	10 9am-4pm Vacation Bible School 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 5:30pm S'more Fun & Worship	11 The Tower deadline 9am-4pm Vacation Bible School 2pm 60+ Ministry	12 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 10am Property Committee 11am Bulletin Assembly	13
14 Pentecost 8 8am Worship/Communion 9am Summer Bells 9:15am Health Ministry 9:30am Kids in the Courtyard 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	15 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	16 4pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Congregation Council	17 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 5:30pm S'more Fun & Worship	18 10am Sarah Circle	19 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	20
National ELCA Youth Gathering - July 14-20 - New Orleans, LA						
21 Pentecost 9 8am Worship/Communion 9am Summer Bells 9:15am Pastries with Pastor Caitlin 9:15am Coffee Time 9:30am Kids in the Courtyard 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion	22 7:30am Foot Care Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	23 1pm The Tower Assembly 7pm Augustana Foundation: Development/Communications	24 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 5:30pm S'more Fun & Worship 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group	25	26 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	27
28 Pentecost 10 8am Worship/Communion 9am Summer Bells 9:15am E4 Mental Health 9:30am Kids in the Courtyard 9:45am Summer Choir 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Augustana Foundation: Finance/Investment	29 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	30	31 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 5:30pm S'more Fun & Worship			

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28 Ronald Lambert
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29 Alana Hankins
Don Troike

30 Andrew Bernhard

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