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# Celebrate "God's work. Our hands." at Augustana, Sunday, September 8!

Details page 4.



5000 E. Alameda Ave. Denver, CO 80246



PHONE: 303-388-4678 FAX: 303-388-1338 WEB: <u>augustanadenver.org</u> EMAIL: <u>info@augustanadenver.org</u> FACEBOOK: <u>augustanadenver.com</u>

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, September 12, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the October edition. Email Lyn Goodrum (goodrum@ augustanadenver.org).

#### **Congregation Council:**

President: Heidi Johnson Vice President: Heather Nelson Secretary: Nancy Nyhus

Interim Treasurer: Michael Gentes
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Betty Boyd Roger Lipker
Janet Flesch Pr. Caitlin Trussell
Jayme Howard Brian Willoughby
Sean-Casey King Michael Zumwalt

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- · Caitlin Trussell, Pastor
- Karen Ullestad, Assisting Pastor (interim)
- Kent Mueller, Assisting Pastor (interim)
- William Crossen, Finance Administrator
- Christine Peters, Building Systems
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- Deacon Shanna VanderWel,
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- Andrew Peters, Director of Music and Organist
- Kevin Padworski, Chancel Choir Director
   Angela Howard, Choristers and
- Cantabile Director
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- and Building Use

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- 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

## Rejoice with

- Logan Thomas Schoales (son of Megan and Robert, grandson of the late Tammy Mohs) in his baptism
- Charlie Parker Pierce (daughter of Alexes and Kevin Pierce) in her baptism

# Thank you for this gift!

#### **Special Gifts**

 in memory of the 80th birthday of Courthney Pitkin Jr.

### Recently lifted up in prayer

#### For hope and healing:

- Dale Arden
- Sandy Barker
- Shirley Barr
- Griffin Brown
- Kay Cruson
- Linda Frank
- Bert Lager
- Pam Midboe
- Dee Mueller
- · Orvid Olson
- Ursula Park
- · Helma Sjodin
- Mary Tetzloff
- Mary Tinker
- Janet Weber

# For comfort and courage:

- Marty Lopez in the death of her friend, Quentin Blakeslee
- Bonita Bock in the death of her friend, Robert Allen
- Family and friends of Mavis Tell in her death

# Godspeed and Farewells: Let Us Know if You're Relocating

Please let us know if you are relocating away from Denver so that we can say Farewell and Godspeed to you. Saying goodbye well is important—as important as our warm welcome when people join the congregation.

In August we said Farewell and Godspeed to the Aarestad family before their relocation to Indiana. David, Karen, Sofia, and Brynn were celebrated and prayed for during worship and people could greet them afterwards. They will be missed! While we'll see them from time-to-time when they visit family, it was good to send them with a blessing to their new home. Let us do the same for you.

### **Pastor Caitlin**

# 120 days - A Welcome with the Gospel at its Heart

Days, dates, and time have a way of sticking in my mind. May 5 and the congregational vote to call me as your next Senior Pastor is solidly affixed there. Much has happened since that day—an office move, a staff retreat, ongoing pastoral care, onboarding Pastor Karen



and Pastor Kent, and planning for the capital campaign, to name a few. Much of what filled my time over the summer are the practical concerns and celebrations of my new work among you.

Woven through those 120 days is a welcome with the gospel at its heart. The good news of Jesus enlivens our faith and is the center of our life together. Everything else we do as a congregation points towards that good news and radiates from that good news. Our connections with each other and the community, our Children, Youth and Family Ministry, Music Ministry, and Compassion and Action with our Neighbors Ministry, all point to the love of Christ for the world and to the welcome we have received in Christ.

Thousands of people drive by Augustana every day. They note the condition of our lawn, parking lot, and building without even thinking about it. Property Committee and Welcome Connection Ministry are working together on our curb welcome as an unspoken invitation and welcome. 15,000 postcards were mailed to homes around Augustana and in Central Park inviting folks to a variety of groups and events. Livestream worship continues to connect people with Augustana before they muster up the courage to walk through the door.

Our connections with each other . . . all point to the love of Christ for the world and to the welcome we have received in Christ.

A few weeks ago, a continuing visitor told me that they decided to become a member after visiting several other congregations because "this place is so welcoming." Someone you know may need to hear about a church in which they're welcome. Who might that be? Pick up an Augustana postcard and invite them to something—choir practice, rice and beans repackaging, grief group, Sunday lunch, faith formation classes, kids' choirs, etc. You never know who will receive the invitation as a needed word of hope.

Peace.

**Pastor Caitlin** 



# God's work. Our hands.

# Celebrate "God's work. Our hands." at Augustana, Sunday, September 8!



This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ—every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life—flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

-elca.org/dayofservice

Augustana members and friends will also be putting their hands to work during an hour or so of service beginning at 9 a.m. on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, September 8. This Sunday is a magnifier for the work that people of faith do behind-the-scenes the other 364 days of the year. Invite friends, put on your "God's work. Our hands." t-shirt, and come to Fellowship Hall!

# Need a t-shirt for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday?

We have a limited supply in Augustana's office, so stop by if you need one to wear on Sunday, September 8.



# Support Operation Pantry for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, September 8



This will be our 10th Annual Rice and Beans Event for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday!

Join us in Fellowship Hall between services on September 8, when we will again repackage over two tons of dried rice and beans into two-pound portions. These important food staples will be donated to Metro Caring's no-cost, nutritious foods market. Not only will you help feed our neighbors in need, but you will enjoy wonderful fellowship with other Augustana members and friends of all ages.

You will be a part of a small miracle as the 4,000+pounds of food are repackaged in under an hour! We start at 9:15 a.m. and are finished and cleaned up by 10:15 a.m., but we rely on your *hands* doing *God's work*.

You can also support this project by contributing toward the purchase of rice and beans by check or <u>online</u>. Make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church and indicate Rice/Beans in the memo line. You may also make an in-kind contribution of basmati rice and/or lentils.

Set up help is needed, so if you can help on Saturday, September 7, contact **Don Troike** (don. troike@gmail.com or 720-379-3676).





### Pastor Karen

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

-ELW 715

As the verses of this hymn remind us, some days we wait in darkness, longing for truth. We long for peace. So many in the world long for food, shelter, and warmth as well. This prayer, then, Christ be our light!, gives us hope. Because it is



through the light of Christ that we find truth, live in peace, and know the bread of life. In Christ we have all we need.

As his own holy people, we also pray that Christ will shine in our hearts, through us, for all the world to see. The candle, lit at our baptism, reminds us

we are to shine the light of truth, God's truth. To become bread, shared until all are fed. We welcome others into our shelter, made of walls that are of living stone. We are servants together, for one another, signs that Christ has already come.

September begins a new program year at Augustana. This is a wonderful opportunity to discover how you may want to share your many gifts, and to see the ways this congregation equips us to be the light of Christ: faith formation for all ages, music and arts, property maintenance, health ministries, stewardship of all God has given us, Compassion and Action with our Neighbors, and so much more. One candle will shatter the darkness. But when our candles are lit together, a brilliant light shines.

As we gather again this fall in worship, formation and service may we shine the light of Christ for all the world to see.

#### **Pastor Karen Ullestad**

pastorkaren@augustanadenver.org

# **Ministry Team**

# Plan provides nine-months of continuity while the Associate Pastor call is refined

Pastor Karen Ullestad, Assisting Pastor for Pastoral Care and Adult Learning, and Pastor Kent Mueller, **Assisting Pastor for Communication Technology** and the Arts, have come out of retirement to join Augustana's staff as we further refine the call for our next Associate Pastor. Augustana is fortunate to have retired clergy among our congregation who are willing to use their gifts for the good of the whole!

In addition to meeting together with Pastor Karen and Pastor Kent to plan worship, etc., we've added the Deacon-Pastors (DPs) meeting to coordinate our efforts with Deacon Shanna VanderWel on behalf of children and intergenerational ministry opportunities. The Call Committee will also meet regularly to further refine the call for the next Associate Pastor.

Previous Tower articles this summer outline the plan more extensively. Direct your questions to Pastor Caitlin. Please welcome Pastor Karen and Pastor Kent into their work with us.

### **Pastor Kent**

# Autumn is all about abundance

My very favorite salad is a chop of cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, banana peppers, and red onions that I harvested from my garden, smothered in Italian dressing, and chilled in the fridge. It's even better with a sprinkling of fresh dill or chopped basil.



I don't take such things for granted.

You, too, might experience God's grace in a garden salad if you are mindful. Because God's grace is revealed to us in surprising and unexpected ways.

Opportunities unfold that we don't expect. Our life journey takes us on detours.

The invitation for me to serve as a part-time interim Assisting Pastor at Augustana is one such unexpected surprise for me. It is a privilege to serve during this extraordinary time in the life of Augustana. I am astonished at the visionary and faithful leadership who is stepping forth and saying, "Now is the time for us to be bold!"

Join me in seeing and savoring all of the ways that God surprises us with abundance!

#### **Pastor Kent Mueller**

kentmueller@augustanadenver.org



# Sue Ann is Retiring!

#### (December 15, 2024)

We celebrate **Sue Ann Glusenkamp's** five years among us as Augustana's Faith Community Nurse and her long career as she retires from nursing. Her impact on the lives of Augustana members, friends, and the wider community are as boundless as her energy. We will miss her! She just celebrated a milestone birthday, and, along with her husband Ron, plans to enjoy travel, grandparenting, and other retirement adventures.

This early announcement allows Sue Ann to say farewell and Godspeed during her many care visits over the next few months. Stay tuned for more information as celebration plans are made.

### **Welcome 150**

# Welcome 150 Teams Prepare for Fall Capital Campaign

### Kickoff is October 13 and Culminates November 17

The Augustana Congregation is stepping boldly into the future with Welcome 150 and the accompanying capital campaign. "Welcome 150 is about renewing Augustana's vibrant welcome in the community," said Senior Pastor Caitlin Trussell. The Pre-Campaign Study facilitated in May by our consultant, Paul Marsh (GSB), revealed widespread support and capacity for the capital campaign projects

-Curb Welcome, Energy Efficiency, Fellowship Hall, Hospitality & Accessibility, Meeting Space Renewal, Organ Refurbishment, and Sanctuary Renewal.

We will embark on a spiritual journey of generosity that will unfold over a series of six weeks beginning Sunday, October 13 and culminating with Commitment Sunday on Sunday, November 17.

"As our Steering Team continues to plan the Welcome 150 Campaign events, I am feeling both enthusiastic and optimistic," said Katrina Tamminga Crook, Welcome 150 Campaign Chair. "Our success hinges on strong leadership, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team driving this effort!"

The Steering Team is comprised of chairs of four working committees:

- Information: Denise Sanderson and Lisa Boe-Sims, Co-Chairs
- **Inspiration:** Beth Finke and Denise Sanderson, Co-Chairs
- **Events:** Josie Cockrell, Chair
- Response and Gratitude: Ron Glusenkamp and Pastor Caitlin Trussell, Co-Chairs

Additional Steering Team Members are Heidi Johnson (President of the Congregation), Paul Edstrom, Ed Havranek, Pastor Kent Mueller, and Bill Crossen (Finance Administrator).

Each team is assigned a specific area of the Campaign, working together to make our goals achievable. We encourage you to prayerfully consider if your talents and interests might

# **Welcome 150 Mission Relationships and Renovation**

In celebration of our congregation's 150th birthday (September 20, 2028), Welcome 150 will deepen our relationships with God and each other, foster new relationships in the wider community, and intentionally renovate our facilities to create a welcoming and enduring space.



contribute to this effort and to contact Katrina at ketamminga@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer. Team leaders will also be reaching out to members of the congregation in the coming weeks.

"The beauty of this campaign is that it is timelimited, concluding by the end of the year," Katrina said. "Please prayerfully consider joining one of these teams!"

If you have any thoughts or feedback, please reach out to Katrina or Pastor Caitlin. We are committed to this exciting initiative and want to ensure every voice within our congregation is heard.

# **President of the Congregation**

# Looking ahead to fall and 2025

It's hard to believe that summer is behind us, and we are looking ahead to the remaining seasons of the year. Council has begun discussions related to potential committee and Council members for 2025, which gives us time to reflect on what we've accomplished together and what gifts we need to continue the work we do as a congregation.

For me, fall is a time of anticipation for what's to come—new friendships in classrooms at school and at church, planning for sporting and holiday events, and preparing to let go of summer weather. I'm excited for these new beginnings and grateful that fall months will unfold the progress we've made on several projects in and around Augustana. The asbestos abatement and flooring work in the Early Learning Center is underway and Augustana Homes is asking for volunteers to help build. These projects have gone from idea to reality, and I hope



Congregation President Heidi Johnson

everyone will take a moment to marvel at what is taking shape around us, and the impact it makes for those we serve.

At the time of this writing, the Augustana Foundation has recently approved third quarter grants, Welcome 150 has formed a Steering Committee in preparation for the upcoming campaign, and the Early Learning Center is ready to welcome new students. The great momentum at Augustana continues!

As always, I thank you for supporting our committees, staff, and Council

as we move into the next church season. Please consider serving on a committee, volunteering for Augustana Homes, or contributing your time as a reader, greeter, or communion server as your time allows.

With appreciation, **Heidi Johnson** 





### **Introducing your 2024 Nominating Committee**

Your members of the 2024 Augustana Nominating Committee are Wil Crook, Jim Dierker, Karen Lambert, Katy Lunsford, Inez Smith and Michael Zumwalt, and it is that time of year where we need to find nominees for positions on Council, which include both adults and high school youth. We are also seeking representatives for the annual Rocky Mountain Synod meeting, and members of the Nominating Committee for 2025. Please consider these opportunities for yourself to become more engaged in the life of our church! Members of the Nominating Committee would be happy to discuss their experiences serving on various committees

as well as on Council. It is a great opportunity to get to know members you may not have interacted with, while enriching our community with your time and ideas.

Perhaps you have someone in mind who you think would be a good fit for one of these roles? Either way, for yourself or for others, please contact one of our committee members with your ideas, or even with questions about what these roles entail. Elections will take place at the annual congregation meeting in January, but we hope to have our list finalized by November. Thank you!

# Worship

# October 6 Blessing of the Animals

#### Bring your pets to 10:30 worship!

As autumn arrives, it has become customary for many ELCA congregations to remember Francis of Assisi, who died 798 years ago on October 4, 1226. Well-known for his love for all creatures, commemorations for Francis often include a blessing of the animals.

This year Augustana has planned a Blessing of the Animals liturgy for the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 6. Whether

they have feathers, fur, or fins, we invite you to bring your pets and stuffed animals to worship



(and even pet photographs if your pet is too lively to enjoy an hour of worship or you want to remember a beloved pet).

We will offer a pet-free seating zone for those who must keep their distance for allergies or other reasons.

"As we bless the animals that day, we witness to God's love, care, and concern for all of creation," said Assisting Pastor Kent Mueller. "We will give thanks to God for the

animals that bring us joy, emotional support, and companionship."

# **Stewardship**

# Stewardship of the Gift of Time

Being retired has provided additional perspective on time stewardship. Contrary to what I might have thought while working "full-time," there is now more pressure to choose wisely on how time is spent. In too many instances my choices for time stewardship are out of balance.

Yes, being older, an official senior citizen, colors my perspective on time stewardship. More impactful though is the realization that how I spend my time, is truly my choice. Pre-retirement it was easy to let job, home, special causes and interests command a less thoughtful, and more reactionary expenditure of time. Yet the choices I made from vocation to family to everything else were my choices. Even

some of the better choices in time stewardship have been less than balanced. I've not sought enough balance in time stewardship between body, mind and spiritual growth and development. More grievously, I've been inwardly focused and time blinded to the body, mind and spiritual needs of others.

While less than optimal time stewardship is a personal frustration, I am thankful for the gift of time that I've been given by my heavenly Father. As I strive to do better, I am amazed how God, who is unbounded by time, can be so timely in compassion. Maybe a basic question is how might I be a better steward of the gift of time? Don't know

that I've got that answer, but there are clues. Family and friends which have most impressed me with their stewardship of time generally lead simpler, outward focused lives. They are thoughtful in comments shared. They are even more considerate and generous in just sharing time to listen to the thoughts and concerns of others. They are more curious and inspiring than negative and fearful as they weigh choices on how they spend and share the gift of time.

Many family and friends that are good stewards of the gift of time are active participants in a church family that encourages faith formation and development. Within our Augustana family there are many examples of generous time stewardship. Our Health Ministries, centered in listening, prayer and the sharing of time and talent, is such an

example. Other ministries and groups that bring faith to life have been part of Augustana's heritage for almost 150 years. These ministries will continue to be part of what defines Augustana today and in the future. So, whether it is a daily devotion, choir rehearsals, participation in corporate worship,

or reaching beyond our church property to spend times of faith with others, good guidance is a prayerful request. May God continue to bless all of our strivings to be good and faithful stewards of time.



Larry Rasmussen



Thank you for your July offerings which supported Day Camp for 27 campers led by Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, Summer Choir for 10:30 worship, and S'more Fun & Worship in Quist Park.



# Finances for the Year-to-Date Period through July

	Month Ended July 31, 2024		July 2023	Year-to-Date Period Ended July 31, 2024		YTD 2023
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$109,331	\$89,078	\$76,556	\$706,492	\$730,510	\$652,787
Expenditures	118,867	114,690	89,564	765,373	784,190	707,405
Net Income (loss)	(\$9,535)	(\$25,612)	(\$13,008)	(\$58,881)	(\$53,680)	(\$54,618)

Our deficit in July of (\$9,500) was \$16,100 favorable to budget. Revenues were \$20,300 favorable to budget as a result of higher than expected offerings but administrative expenses were (\$4,200) unfavorable to budget for the month mostly due to unexpected expenses related to the chiller and the doors which were partially offset by favorable variances in payroll and Children, Youth and Family.

For the year-to-date period, the revenue variance is driven by a shortfalls in offerings of (\$9,900), special gifts of (\$8,200) and building use of (\$6,200). While offering income is slightly behind budget, it is at its highest level in the last five years. The favorable expense variance is due to lower than expected payroll expense.

# **Volunteer Ministry**

# **Volunteer Spotlight: Roma Rehkow**



If you were baptized at Augustana Lutheran, it is most likely you received a baptismal napkin with an embroidered cross prominently displayed on it. The person responsible for hand-stitching those crosses is Roma Rehkow, our original member to Augustana, who started attending along with her husband, Jerry, the day the church first opened its doors in the current location back in 1959. She figures to have made hundreds of embroidered baptismal napkins over the years.

Other volunteering at Augustana has included teaching the two-year-olds Sunday School class for many years with Judy Nyquist, back when Augustana had two classes, at 9:30 and 11 a.m., of over 20 two-year-olds each. She loves toddlers, so that was a lot of fun for her. Roma also helped Judy with the senior lunches back when they were held every month, and the church had a lot more seniors. And she continues to attend the "Bless the Years" senior lunches whenever offered. She also helped get the 9Health Fair started at Augustana and was in Phoebe Circle for some 50 years!

Roma was born in Haigler, NE, current population 140. It is listed as a "village." At the time of her birth the population was about 2,000, and without a hospital, so the local doctor delivered her in her grandmother's front bedroom. She enjoys waffles and pancakes and the first Bible verse she ever learned was John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." She also loves everything about Easter and attending the worship services at Augustana.

While she's pretty much done everything she's ever wanted to do, including travel to some 119 countries, she does hope to one day meet her great-grandson, who lives in Princeton, NJ. Though she lost Jerry about four years ago, she feels she continues to have a wonderful life and gives thanks to God in prayer every evening. She loves to play bridge, but a chore she really dislikes is cleaning the bathroom. At her Brookhaven – Park Place home, she appreciates having someone come in to take care of that.

Roma enjoys people, playing bridge and good conversation. She is compassionate and very engaging towards everyone who comes into contact with her. For many years she has been involved with DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), a service organization through which she has worked with immigrants becoming citizens and providing them with copies of the US Constitution and found it very rewarding to see how all of the court judges involved would take the time to work with each immigrant in a special way. She also used to volunteer with the Visitors Bureau.

And she knows a lot about Denver, having first moved here when she was 15, and since her husband sold commercial real estate, she was always in on the latest developments around town. "I lived life as it came," she says, and believes she was a "good mother, good wife, and good daughter,

I hope." Roma has a wonderful family, "a small family"—a grandson who lives in Denver, a son who lives in New York, and her daughter who lives in England.

A message she would like to share with her fellow members at Augustana is one of encouragement to enjoy and take part in the church's ministries. See the church as a family in which to participate and be blessed in return by doing so.

#### Michael Zumwalt,

Interviewer

# **Augustana Foundation**

# Augustana Foundation announces third quarter grants

At a recent meeting of the Augustana Foundation, the following grants totaling \$34,600 were awarded for the third quarter:

- Augustana Lutheran Church for ongoing capital needs of the buildings and campus;
- Augustana Lutheran Church for completion of the energy audit that will help determine priorities for the funds raised by the upcoming Welcome 150 Capital Campaign;
- Augustana CAN Ministry;
- ELCA Deacons Greece and Turkey Footsteps of Paul – a travel study program for Augustana's Deacon Shanna VanderWel;
- Augustana Lutheran Church for the purchase of additional video equipment to facilitate ongoing online meeting accessibility;
- Habitat for Humanity;
- Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains and
- Rejoicing Spirits a volunteer-led monthly inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their families and caregivers.

# **Welcome Connection**



Roger Lipker presents Morgan Levy with a gift card for Morning Story Restaurant.

#### And the winner is . . .

Morgan Levy was the winner of the Augustana website treasure hunt drawing sponsored by Augustana's Welcome Connection in July. Thanks to all who visited Augustana's website to search for answers to the weekly clue questions! Each website visit helps promote Augustana when people search for Lutheran churches in the Denver area.

# September Tower Welcome Connection Challenge

It's time for another fun day of "God's work. Our hands." Your September challenge is to bring a friend to help bag rice and beans for Metro Caring on September 8. It's a crazy, wonderful mess of an hour where you get a chance to meet or catch up with other wonderful Augustana helpers. See you there!

See additional information, page 4.



# **Music Ministry**

# Come make music at Augustana!

As we begin September, music ensembles at Augustana resume rehearsals. Singers, ringers, and instrumentalists are welcome in Augustana's many music groups which rehearse and lead music in worship September through May. The list of music opportunities is as follows:

#### **Choirs**

Cherub Choir (age 4-grade 2) Sunday rehearsal, 9-9:30 a.m. Marcia Olson, director

Choristers (grades 3–5)
Sunday rehearsal, 9–9:30 a.m.
Angela Howard, director

Cantabile (grades 6–12) Sunday rehearsal, 12:15–1 p.m. Angela Howard, director

**Chancel Choir** (high schoolers and adults) Wednesday rehearsal, 7:15–9:15 p.m. **Kevin Padworski**, director

Augustana Singers (adults)
Meets periodically on Wednesdays,
9:15–10:15 a.m.
Andrew Peters, director

# Instrumental Ensembles and Handbell Choirs

Recorder Ensemble (grades 2–3)
Sunday rehearsal, noon–12:45 p.m.
Sharon Schillereff, director

Chapel Ringers (grades 4–5) Sunday rehearsal, noon–12:45 p.m.. Andrew Peters, director

Chancel Handbells (grades 6–12) Sunday rehearsal, 9–9:30 a.m. Andrew Peters, director

Augustana Ringers (adults)
Wednesday rehearsal, 6–7 p.m.
Andrew Peters, director

Augustana Instrumental Ensemble (children, youth, adults)
Periodic Sunday rehearsal, noon–12:45 p.m.

Kirsten Daniel, director

For any questions about any ensemble, please contact me at 303-388-4678 or <u>peters@augustanadenver.org</u>.

Grace and peace, **Andy Peters**Director of Music and Organist

# **AUGUSTANARTS**

# Augustana Arts kicks off new season of music lessons and concerts!

Augustana Arts is kicking off the music this month with the first Concert Series performance of the season and the inaugural Music Encounters instrument lesson class for youth at Augustana Lutheran Church.

#### **Music Encounters**

Students ages 6–12 can join for small-group violin lessons right at Augustana Lutheran Church this school year. Music Encounters has been bringing high-

quality instrument instruction into schools and community centers for over 20 years, getting thousands of children hands-on with instruments. Starting September 7, classes will be offered at Augustana on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. Lessons are based on Suzuki style instruction. Tuition is \$150 for each eight-week course with the next session running September 7–October 26.

#### At a glance:

- Small-group violin lessons for kids ages approximately 6–12
- Course Session 1 is September 7–October 26, additional sessions to immediately follow
- \$150 for tuition, violin rental, all supplies (some scholarship spots available)
- Register online <u>Augustanaarts.org/ME-Saturdays</u>



# Stratus Chamber Orchestra Immersive Sunset Concert

Friday, September 13, 5 p.m. activities and 6 p.m. Concert Start Pavilion at City Park (2001 Steele St, Denver)

Stratus Chamber Orchestra's first concert of the season is this month!

Imagine sitting surrounded by musicians while bright, brassy, and

powerful music fills the space around you. Kick off the final days of summer with your friends, family, and Stratus Chamber Orchestra at an immersiveseating sunset concert with additional picnic seating at the City Park Pavilion.

This concert will feature heroic music including hits like a *Lord of the Rings Medley*, "Bugler's Holiday," and Beethoven's Symphony no. 3. You can expect the music to sound exciting, invigorating, uplifting, rejuvenating, triumphant, and exhilarating.

Join Augustana Arts at 5 p.m. before the concert starts for hands-on activities for adults and children including an instrument petting zoo where you can make sounds of your own, or simply join for the 6 p.m. concert.

Register for Pay What You Can ticketing at AugustanaArts.org/tickets/heros-journey.



# Children, Youth, Family

# Faith Formation and Youth Music Ministry begin Sunday, September 15!

#### 9-9:30 a.m.

- Cherub Choir (age 4–grade 2)
- Choristers (choir for grades 3–5)
- Chancel Handbells (grades 6-12)

#### 9:30-10:15 a.m.

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

#### 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sunday Lunch for all

#### Noon-12:45 p.m.

- Cantabile (choir for grades 6–12)
- Chapel Ringers (handbells for grades 4–5)
- Recorder Ensemble (grades 2-3)
- Augustana Instrumental Ensemble (This group will meet periodically during the year and play with hymns and service music during worship.)

#### **Register today!**

Scan the code to register online or visit <a href="https://www.augustanadenver.org/faith-formation-registration/">https://www.augustanadenver.org/faith-formation-registration/</a>.



### 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.



# Serve as a crucifer and/or acolyte!

Crucifer and Acolyte orientation will be offered Sunday, September 22, 9:30–10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary for all 5th–12th graders, their parents, and

any adults interested in supporting these ministries at Augustana. We will meet in the Narthex and start with a snack at 9:20 a.m. Both Breakfast Club and Confirmation will be participating in this training during our faith formation time.

# Augustana hosts Metro East Youth Service Project for Metro Caring

Youth in grades 5–12 are invited to a youth service project, Sunday, September 29, 3–6 p.m. at Augustana. We will assemble grab-and-go lunches for Metro Caring, play some games, and enjoy pizza with fellow youth from our Metro East Conference. An RSVP to **Deacon Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by September 26 is helpful but not required.

#### Save the dates!

#### **Corn Maize and Pumpkin Patch**

Youth in grades 5–12 are invited to a Corn Maize and Pumpkin Patch outing Sunday, October 20, 1–4 p.m.! Cost is \$15, and an RSVP to **Deacon Shanna** (<u>shanna@augustanadenver.org</u> or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by October 16 is helpful.

#### **Trunk-or-Treat**

Sunday, October 27, 12:30–1:30 p.m. in the Alameda parking lot. You are invited to host a trunk and hand out candy/small trinkets to folks in our church and community.



# See what's new with Augustana's Sunday Lunches!

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.

#### **RSVP for Sunday Lunch on September 8**

For this year's Sunday Lunch, we will be serving meals from some of the longtime favorites while adding a few new sources this year. Every couple of months, we will serve food from a restaurant with a mission to serve and help people in the community. For these meals, we ask that you RSVP on the worship slips, call Augustana's office (303-388-4678), or email **Deacon Shanna** (shanna@ augustanadenver.org). Since these meals will cost more than the typical \$10 per person, we hope for a more accurate headcount.



Your first RSVP is requested for September 8 where we will be ordering pizza from **Pizzability**. Pizzability is a

pizzeria staffed by individuals with disabilities, founded by a special needs teacher who saw a need for jobs and training for adults with disabilities.

#### **September Sunday Lunch schedule**

- September 8: Pizzability Pizza
- **September 15:** Primo Hoagies and chips
- September 22: "Soup" tember Potluck
   This Sunday you are invited to bring a crock pot of soup, bread, salad or dessert to share for our Sunday Lunch.
- September 29: Mici Italian

#### Help serve and clean up

Sign up to help with serving and cleaning with **Deacon Shanna** (<u>shanna@augustanadenver.org</u> or 303-388-4678 ext. 117). Thank you!



# Study/Fellowship

#### **Adult Forum**

You are invited to join this Sunday Faith Formation opportunity for adults of all ages. We gather in the Anna Paulson Room at 9:15 a.m. and have a wide variety of discussions and learning September through May.

- **September 1:** No Forum
- **September 8:** It's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday! During Augustana's Faith Formation time, plan to gather in Fellowship Hall for Operation Pantry. <u>See details page 4.</u>
- September 15: Pastries with the Pastor an update on Pastor Caitlin's first four months as senior pastor, including an introduction to Welcome 150
- September 22: Prayer Ministry at Augustana -Pastor Karen will talk about prayer in general and more specifically the importance of prayer in this congregation
- **September 29:** Habitat for Humanity shares an update about the Augustana Homes project

# **Book Group**

Join us on Monday, September 16 at 1 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room to discuss Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken*, the incredible true story of survival and salvation. For information, contact **Ellen Kastens** (303-475-7877 or <a href="mailto:ekkastens@gmail.com">ekkastens@gmail.com</a>). All are welcome.



On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, named Louis Zamperini, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. (Goodreads)

### Women, Wine and Word

Women, Wine and Word meets Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Our book is A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community by John Pavlovitz. A Bigger Table invites readers to envision a

church that is big enough for everyone, by holding up a mirror to the modern church and speaking clearly on issues at the heart of the Christian community: LGBT inclusion, gender equality, racial tensions, global concerns, and theological shifts. John Pavlovitz shares moving personal stories, his careful observations as a pastor, and his understanding of the ancient stories of Jesus to set the table for a new, positive, more loving conversation on these and other important matters of faith. We will be looking at Part 1: Big God, Small Table. The book is available on Amazon or Thriftbooks.com.

Bring yourself, a friend or two, snacks and/ or beverages to share. Contact **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com) for additional information or questions.



# "Understanding Your Grief" Support Group begins this fall

# 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 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."

# **Health Ministry**

### **NEW FOR Fall 2024 - TWO options**

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, Colorado (centerforloss.com).

#### **Option ONE:**

- Midweek daytime on Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon
- 10 Sessions starting Tuesday, October 1, ending Tuesday, December 3
- Facilitators: Sue Ann Glusenkamp, FCN, and Pastor Ron Glusenkamp

#### **Option TWO:**

- Sundays after morning worship and lunch, noon-1:30 p.m.
- 10 Sessions starting Sunday, September 22, ending Sunday, December 8 (no sessions October 6 and December 1)
- Facilitators: **Sue Ann Glusenkamp**, FCN, and **Brian Bernhard**, past group participant

#### **About these sessions:**

- Cost: 90 minutes each session and \$30 to cover cost of books. Each participant will receive two books to guide the journey
- Scholarships are available
- Registration for one of the options is required by **Sunday, September 15**
- Limited group size to first 10 registrants for each group
- To register contact Sue Ann (glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org or call 303-388-4678)
- Registrations forms are also available in the church narthex and by the elevator.

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.

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

### **CPR Skills Training Sessions are back**



Augustana's
Health
Ministry Team
will be offering
the CPR skills
training
sessions
again this
September.

The CPR skills training sessions are based on the American Heart Association Adult & Child CPR Anytime training resources. CPR Anytime allows anyone to master the basics of adult Hands-Only CPR, child CPR with breaths, adult and child choking relief, and general awareness of automated external defibrillators—or AEDs. These skills will help you feel more prepared to respond to medical emergencies and provide basic response until EMS

arrives to provide more advanced care. This is a skills and information session where you will be able to practice on a mannequin. This will not be a full certification course. All ushers and church staff are encouraged to attend. Sessions will be held in the Anna Paulson Room.

#### Sessions will be held in the Anna Paulson Room

- Saturday, September 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Thursday, September 26, 1-3 p.m.

Scan the code to sign up for a time, or go to Health Ministry on Augustana's website. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Inez Smith** from the Health Ministry Team (303-877-2049 or



<u>lersmi@comcast.net</u>). A \$5 donation, made at the time of class, is suggested to help defray the cost of course materials.



### Parents of Estranged Adult Kids (PEAK) - an awareness educational opportunity

- Monday, September 23, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- Zoom (join via Zoom at your location OR join the Zoom at Augustana)
- Fe Anam Avis, Speaker

Family estrangement in general and parental estrangement in particular is being recognized as an emerging public health problem in our society. Roughly 70 million persons over the age of 18 indicate they are estranged from a family member, and one in eight parent-adult child relationships is estranged. During this opportunity, Fe Anam Avis, PEAK founder, will be assisting in providing information to educate and

equip us in our ministries in order to serve those in our congregations experiencing the pain and trauma. This is open to Faith Community Nurses, Pastors, Stephen Ministers, Health Ministry Teams, Care Ministry Teams, Senior Ministry Programs and other interested parties.



The talk is sponsored by the Denver Area Faith Community Nurses, so there is no fee to attend. However, in order to better plan and to send a Zoom link, registration is required.

Prior to the event and after registering, a workbook and resources will be sent to you.

To register, please click on this link:

https://asecondday.com/ register-for-parentalestrangement-training/

Further questions can be sent to <u>janet@bethany-denver.org</u> or <u>glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org</u>.



## Save the Date for Candlelighting for Mental Illness

When: Sunday, September 29

Where: During both worship services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Why: In preparation for Mental Health/Mental Illness Awareness Week, October 6–13, 2024, and The LIV Project on Sunday, October 6. (See page 20 about this event.)

On September 29, scripture, sermon, children's message, hymns, anthems, prayers, and candlelighting will focus on our loved ones and our own mental health.

#### There is NO HEALTH without MENTAL HEALTH!

Plan now to join Augustana's **E4 Mental Health Ministry Team** for this meaningful worship day.

# **60+ Ministry**

### "What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?"



All are invited to bring a snack and gather in Room 2 at Augustana for these Zoom discussions presented by United Lutheran Seminary and co-sponsored by 60+ Ministry and Human

Dignity Delegates. Following the presentation, we'll break for 15 minutes before returning to Room 2 for the debriefing.

 Please note date change due to the presidential debate! On Sunday, September 8, 4:55–7:30 p.m.,
 Dr. Caryn Roswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College will discuss Abortion.

To attend, please fill out the bottom portion of your Sunday attendance slip or email **Judy** (<u>jlovestotravel@gmail.com</u>).

# **Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors**

# With fall comes school supplies, teacher appreciation, and feeding our neighbors

#### **School Backpacks and School Supplies**

Thanks to everyone's generosity, **Lutheran Family Services** and **Foster Source** received 35 backpacks for immigrant and foster children. A special thank you goes out to Katherine Cruson and Sarah Circle for coordinating this activity. Nothing puts a smile on a student's face faster than new school supplies on the first day of school.

# **Augustana Early Learning Center Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day**

On August 12 the teachers and staff of Augustana's Early Learning Center enjoyed a lunch provided by CAN Ministry. As the new school year begins, we just wanted to say thank you for all their hard work and dedication to our children. Have a successful, fun-filled 2024-2025 school year!

#### "God's work. Our hands."

Put your working gloves on because "God's work. Our hands." will take place on September 8. At this fun intergenerational activity, volunteers repackage large sacks of rice and beans into smaller bags for distribution at Metro Caring. See page 4 for details.

#### **Zoom Series from United Lutheran Seminary**

The ELCA social teachings Zoom series continues. Abortion will be the topic for the September 10 meeting and Faith, Sexism and Justice will follow on September 24. See article above for details.

#### **Sanctuary Soup Shelf**

As always, the Sanctuary Soup Shelf is looking for canned food donations. Since schools' summer break began, the Soup Shelf has experienced additional traffic. Our assumption is parents of children who would normally receive breakfast and lunch at school, require new sources of food during the summer months.

#### Fun Fact: Did you know?

Since the composting initiative began, Augustana has diverted approximately 20,000 pounds of waste/garbage to the compost center instead of the landfill. YAY!!!

### Thanks for school supplies!

Thanks to Augustana members and friends for their generosity for the Lutheran Family Services Backpacks and school supplies drive. Sarah Circle members assembled 35 backpacks on Monday, July 22. LFS requested 13 filled backpacks, which were delivered to LFSRM for refugee and foster children. Because of the generosity of Augustana members, 22 additional backpacks were filled and donated to Foster Source, which assists foster families. Some of the gift cards which were donated were used to purchase additional supplies; the other gift cards were given directly to LFS. Sarah Circle contributed over \$160 and a Thrivent Action Team Grant provided another \$250 to purchase needed supplies. Thank you, Augustana, for your generosity!



## **Human Dignity Delegates**

#### Gathering Together in Faith: People's Assembly for a Multiracial Democracy

The Human Dignity Delegates September meeting will be held in conjunction with Together Colorado. All are welcome!

- Sunday, September 22, 2–p.m. at Shorter Community AME Church (3100 Richard Allen Ct, Denver, 80205)
- Register online here: https://www.mobilize.us/togethercolorado/event/659007/

Our goals are to create belonging for our communities and congregations, energize our people to take action now to strengthen democracy, and project a vision for how we can influence the values and platform of our next statewide leaders in 2026 and beyond.

#### **Meet your Colorado Representative**

Are you interested in meeting the candidates for your Colorado Representative for the House? Together Colorado is organizing "Candidate Encounters" to do just that! If you are interested, contact **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com), and she will connect you with the Together Colorado team in your house district.

#### **Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Efforts:**

- ELCA Election Activator: This is a non-partisan effort to GOTV this fall. If interested, check out this link: <a href="https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/elca-election-activator-network/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\_campaign=advocacy\_newsletter072024&utm\_content=240722+ELCA+Election+Activator+reminder</a>
- Metro Caring and Together Colorado are also mounting efforts to GOTV. If these more local efforts appeal to you, contact Katy Lunsford for additional information.

#### November Ballot Measures

Stay tuned for the time and place to learn about the various statewide and Denver specific ballot measures and what your vote really means.

For additional information or questions about Human Dignity Delegates, contact **Beth Black** (comosh@aol.com) or **Katy Lunsford** (Katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com).



# Help build the Augustana Homes!

Augustana Homes has gone vertical! Starting in September there are multiple ways for you to help build.

**First of all**, you can sign up for any of the following Holy Hammers sponsored build dates:

- Saturday, September 21, 7:50 a.m.–3:30 p.m. *Register by September 7*.
- Saturday, October 26, 8:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register by October 12.
- Saturday, November 9, 8:50 a.m.-4:30 pm. Register by October 26.

Use this link to register online:

• https://vhub.at/HolyHammers

**Secondly**, you can sign up as an individual on Thursday, Friday, Saturday dates as they become available, usually two weeks in advance. Please use the following link to register:

• https://denver.volunteerhub.com/vv2

**Or thirdly**, if you would like to arrange a special day for your group, please contact **Michael Zumwalt**. (See contact info following.)

The minimum age for working at a building site is 16, which makes this 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.

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

# **Care of Creation**

# A song for the Care of Creation

This is God's World

(Chorus)

This is God's world given on loan; No other earth shall be our home. So let us bless, honor and tend What God in love created.

Who dare disorder the song of the earth, Silence a concert of infinite worth? Creation's music is meant for its Maker above, Out of love. (*Chorus*)

Who dares demand or presume or require Earth to fulfill every selfish desire? No wealthy nation should steal what the future will need out of greed. (Chorus)

Shall justice favor the powerful few Protecting all that they won, want and do? Or, under God, shall that justice be equal for all, great and small? (*Chorus*)

God grant us love that the world might survive, Everyone prosper, the climate revive, Let deeper listening and sharing be hallmarks of care everywhere! (Chorus)

From the collection *This is God's World*Music and words: John L Bell
Iona Community
Wild Goose Publications 2020

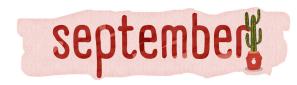
Hear this lively song at <a href="https://youtu.be/FD2QgUxpl84?t=765">https://youtu.be/FD2QgUxpl84?t=765</a>.

Creator God,

may it always be so.

Your world fills our hearts with joy: the blues and grays of mountain and sky, the music and voices echoing within the walls of our church, the diversity of humankind all around us. Your divine imagination delights and surprises us—

Wherever we find ourselves, may we also find you. Amen



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost 15 8am Worship/Communion 10:30am Worship/Communion	2 Labor Day - office closed -	3	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	5	6 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	7
8 Pentecost 16 "God's work. Our hands." Sunday 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Vitalant Blood Drive 9:15am Augustana Knitters 9:15am Health Ministry 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Sunday Lunch Noon Mission Trip Planning Noon Executive Committee 4:55pm What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?	9 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Welcome Connection	10 6pm Children, Youth and Family Ministry Committee	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	12 The Tower deadline 2pm 60+ Ministry	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 10am Property Committee 11am Bulletin Assembly	14
15 Pentecost 17 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Sunday Lunch See Faith Formation and Music Ministry below.	16 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Book Group	4:30pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Congregation Council	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	19 10am Sarah Circle 6pm Augustana Early Learning Center Board 7pm Women, Wine and Word	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	21 11am CPR Skills Training
22 Pentecost 18 8am Worship/Communion 9am Acolyte Training 9:15am E4 Mental Health 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Sunday Lunch Noon Grief Support Group See Faith Formation and Music Ministry below.	7:30am Foot Care Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 2pm PEAK Awareness Educational Opportunity	24 1pm The Tower Assembly 4:55pm 60+ Ministry What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year? 7pm Rachel Circle	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group 7:15pm Chancel Choir	26 1pm CPR Skills Training	9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	28
29 Pentecost 19 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:30am Augustana Ringers 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon CAN Ministry Noon Sunday Lunch Noon Grief Support Group See Faith Formation and Music Ministry right.	30 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	· ·				



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- 28 Karen Kokos Keith Long Jim Sanderson
- 29 Ruth PedersonBrad Uyemura
- 30 Judy Smeester

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