



It's our annual Cross-Gen Faith Formation **EPIPHANY PARTY!**

Sunday, January 5 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

–sundaysandseasons.com

Augustana celebrates the Epiphany of Our Lord, Sunday, January 5. You’re invited to a cross-generational event in Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:15 a.m. Come learn and connect with Augustana members and friends as we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to Baby Jesus.



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, January 16, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the February edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Congregation Council:

President: Heidi Johnson

Vice President: Heather Nelson

Secretary: Nancy Nyhus

Acting Treasurer: Bill Crossen

Brynn Aarestad Jack Kusek

Betty Boyd Roger Lipker

Janet Flesch Pr. Caitlin Trussell

Jayne Howard Brian Willoughby

Sean-Casey King Michael Zumwalt

Staff:

- **Caitlin Trussell**, Senior Pastor
- **Karen Ullestad**, Assisting Pastor (interim)
- **Kent Mueller**, 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
- **Inez Smith**, Interim Faith Community Nurse
- **Lyn Goodrum**, Publications Administrator
- **Janice Schulz**, Interim Office Administrator
- **Alice Alister** and **Jesse Crone**, AV Technicians
- **Craig Tamminga**, Facility Manager
- **Asmir Hodzic**, Building and Grounds Manager
- **Ellen Kastens**, **Amy Tamminga**, **Erin Saboe Willoughby**, **Pam Uyemura**, Wedding Coordinators
- **Kisanet Yohannes**, Director, Augustana Early Learning Center

Recently lifted up in prayer

Hope and healing:

- Laura
- Dale Arden
- Frank Bair
- Sandy Barker
- Erin Brown
- Griffin Brown
- Emmett Cruson
- Reeve Ferlic
- Dorie Fie
- Rick Frampton
- Julie Gilchrist
- Addie Gillespie
- Phyllis Imholte
- Dianne Nelson
- Gail Jacobs
- Dick Larson
- Pam Ninke
- Orvid Olson
- Caroline Schomp
- Mary Tinker

Comfort and courage:

- Sandy Barker in the death of her brother, Jackson Barker
- The Levy family in the death of their friend, Betty Henkowski
- Doug Hein in the death of his friend, Terrance Thompson

Rejoice with

- Scarlett Jordan, daughter of Katy and Justin Jordan, in her baptism

Thank you for the gifts!

Augustana Foundation

- in memory of Arvid Anderson

Special Gifts

- in memory of Judy Kessenich and Martha Munson
- in honor of the baptism of Scarlett Jordan

Two ships

The year like a ship in the distance
comes over life's mystical sea.

We know not what change of existence
'tis bringing to you or to me.

But we wave out the ship that is leaving
and we welcome the ship coming in,
although it be loaded with grieving,
with trouble, or losses, or sin. ...

The new ship comes nearer and nearer,
we know not what freight she may hold.
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;
our hearts are courageous and bold.
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.
Sail in with new banners unfurled.
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.
Sail in with new tasks for the world.

—from "New Year," Ella Wheeler Wilcox



A Tribute to Sue Ann

As she retires from her 30-year nursing career, **Sue Ann Glusenkamp, MS, FCN, RN**, will be remembered as an extraordinary professional nurse and a living legend in the specialty practice of Faith Community Nursing (formerly Parish Nursing).

A Second Career in Nursing

After earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Concordia University, Sue Ann was a beloved teacher. However, after her own three children were born, she was seeking something different when she learned of a new accelerated nursing program for those holding college degrees. She enrolled and completed an intense BS in Nursing program.

After caring for veterans for 12 years at VA Hospitals, she worked across clinical units at Porter Hospital for six years. An MS in Nursing Leadership prepared her for another six years as Clinical Educator. However, one day the entire Professional Development department was eliminated, and she was out of a job.

On Choosing Augustana

Her application letter stated, "My dedication to the church, specifically the ELCA, and to health ministry is reflected in my career path as well as my Lutheran heritage and upbringing. Both my father and my spouse were Lutheran pastors, so I possess and cherish a keen understanding and love for church, ministry, and congregational life."

She also shared words from the hymn, "Here I am Lord," and welcomed the opportunity to discern if she was the FCN Augustana was seeking. She began her ministry in September 2019.



Reflections from Augustana

Sue Ann demonstrates advanced understanding that an FCN's role in health ministry includes team ministry with pastoral staff, a health ministry committee, and congregational volunteers.

Within months her guidance was critical—the COVID-19 global pandemic presented unexpected challenges. Sue Ann provided courageous leadership and led an expert COVID-19 team in monitoring pandemic indices and staging a safe re-opening.

Her authentic relationships are evidenced in the way she

listens, reflects, and responds in a most sensitive, knowledgeable, and loving way. She is guided by a strong faith, unlimited caring capacity, and an evidence-based practice framework.

She is effective across the life spectrum. Healing and wholeness can be achieved even amid illness, disease, and dying. She has a remarkable ability to use hymns, scripture, and prayer in a most powerful way.

Congregants and their families express grateful appreciation for her supportive pastoral care in both their most joyous and darkest moments. At times of death, Sue Ann is present to grieve with families and anoint the dead. Widespread reporting about her home and healthcare visits suggests she strengthens their faith, lifts their spirits, and captures their hearts.

While Sue Ann is an inspirational and relentless leader among the church staff, she conveys a presence with colleagues where individual gifts are acknowledged, enthusiasm abounds, and expectations are clear. She sets boundaries without

continued, next page

interfering with creativity. Staff colleagues value her leadership, commitment, energy, and joy.

Leaving a Legacy

Sue Ann credits her forerunners with her success at Augustana, careful to point to its 35-year reputation as a model parish nursing program. She hopes to be most remembered for introducing a structured mental health program, noting that everyone either has or knows someone who has struggled with mental health. The E4 Program is a signature achievement.

Introducing “Bless the Years” is another anticipated legacy. Three times a year those who have difficulty getting to church are invited to a special sanctuary worship followed by catered lunch with old friends. And then she added with a smile, “And probably they’ll remember my singing. I love to sing hymns with everyone. Even at staff meetings.”

A Living Legend

Sue Ann was an FCN pioneer before the ANA recognized it as a specialty practice. She was commissioned an FNC and served as a parish nurse at St. Louis and Minneapolis congregations. Concurrent with her Augustana position, she advanced the FCN specialty through leadership positions ranging from Metro Denver to churchwide FCN associations.

Committed to the future of this specialty, Sue Ann teaches Foundations of Faith Community Nursing (Westberg Institute), an educational requirement for entry into FCN practice. During her five-year tenure, Sue Ann mentored two Augustana members through this course, resulting in five commissioned FCNs on its engaging interdisciplinary Health Ministry Team.

Contributed by **Marilyn Stember**

Marilyn Stember, PhD, RN, FAAN, University of Colorado Professor Emeritus, was the first credentialed FCN at Augustana and was Lead Faculty, International Parish Nursing Resource Center, 1991–2017.

Phone Call Re-Direction Following Sue Ann’s Retirement

Please call Augustana’s office (303-388-4678) to contact anyone on Care Team about a change in your health situation. On the main church line, there is also an after-hours emergency option to contact a pastor in the event of an emergent hospitalization or unexpected death. Please do not call Sue Ann’s cell number. I have encouraged her to forward all voicemails my way so that she is able to begin her retirement adventure as we prepare to welcome a new nurse. Thank you!

Peace, **Pastor Caitlin**

Interim Faith Community Nurse!



Please welcome **Inez Smith**, Augustana member and Registered Nurse, to her temporary new staff role. Inez’s 37-year nursing career in ICU and Cardiology includes staff and management positions.

She currently works part-time as a Staff RN in Cardiac Rehab for St. Joseph’s Hospital. As part of Augustana’s Care Team and at the direction of Pastor Karen, Inez will be making visits to Augustana members and facilitating the Health Ministry until Sue Ann’s successor is found.

Faith Community Nurse Search Committee

The Faith Community Nurse position is mission critical for our Augustana Congregation. A Search Committee is being formed to find Sue Ann’s successor. Stay tuned to weekly ePistles for updates. Please email questions or comments to PastorCaitlinTrussell@augustanadenver.org.

Additional Staff News

Volunteer Coordinator and Building Use Facilitator Update

Janice Schulz continues as the Interim Office Administrator while we assess and prioritize the wide range of responsibilities accomplished by Julie MacDougall in both positions over the past ten years. Jan's response to new and continuing visitors is mission critical as we welcome folks to Augustana. In addition to Jan, other staff have picked up pieces of the two roles, including Bill Crossen, Lyn Goodrum, Christine Peters, and Shanna VanderWel.

Please continue to volunteer to help, as well as encourage and pray for, our gifted and dedicated staff during this in-between time. Thank you!

Email questions and comments to
PastorCaitlinTrussell@augustanadenver.org.

Refining the Call for the Associate Pastor Update

As per the plan published this past summer, the Call Committee met with Pastor Caitlin on December 1. They reviewed what has been learned thus far during the assumption of Pastor Caitlin's prior roles and responsibilities by Deacon Shanna, Pastor Karen, and Pastor Kent. Additionally discussed were the opportunities created by Sue Ann's retirement and Julie's resignation to begin a new work adventure. The Call Committee will meet again on January 13.



Pastor Karen

*Come! Live in the Light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord.
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

ELW 720

Once we are given freedom, as a teenager, or even as we start retirement, we quickly learn that freedom can be challenging, as well as liberating. We may think having options, or making our own choices, is a relief. But knowing what will be faithful, helpful, or safe is not always obvious.



In this hymn we hear God's version of freedom in the refrain: we are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God. Freedom in the city of God is all about working together to shine the joy and the love of the Lord—to be light in a sometimes very broken world.

We have been given the light of Christ in our baptism. To shine before others, who will see those good works, our freedom, that glorify God. Thank you, Augustana, for your rays of love and joy.

Who will you invite to join us this Epiphany season in shining the light of Christ?

Pastor Karen Ullestad
pastorkaren@augustanadenver.org

Pastor Caitlin

The Holy Spirit's Mischief: Momentum, Money, and Ministry

If you ask our daughter who her mom thinks the Holy Spirit is, she will tell you, "A mischief maker." The Holy Spirit shatters our assumptions about ourselves and God, the church and scripture, the gospel and grace. Our open eyes and ears can catch the Holy Spirit at play.



For instance, our congregation is experiencing growing momentum alongside the paradox that total offerings decreased in late fall last year. Was it election stress? Or was our attention transfixed by our 2025 offerings and the \$4.92 million combined gifts thus far to the Welcome 150 capital campaign? It's unclear.

Our momentum and the Holy Spirit's mischief includes welcoming 23 people in 13 households as members in October and an incremental growth in membership over the past two years. Worship attendance is up ever so slightly over last year at this time. Visitors and continuing visitors worship every Sunday, fill out worship slips and shake my hand. Statement of Intent cards given in November show a total offering increase of over 5% from last year of those who filled them out which includes 16 households newly intending to give offerings in 2025.

What we can say with certainty is that good things are happening in our congregation and beyond. Sunday Lunches pulse with intergenerational energy. Christmas caroling joined over 40 of our voices in song to our home-centered members and their neighbors. The Chancel Choir Christmas concert drew hundreds of people from the local community in addition to Augustana faithfuls. CAN

Join me in my New Year's resolution to watch for the Holy Spirit's mischief making. Let me know where you see the Spirit at play!

Ministry's leadership inspired 271 cans of food from Thanksgiving Eve that were divided between the George Washington High School's pantry and our Soup Self as well as Advent Farm gifts to address food insecurity nationally and globally. The Knitters donated a heap of hats, mittens, and scarves to McMeen Elementary. And the list goes on . . .

As the calendar turns the page into 2025, we'll be renewing our Strategic Plan across all ministries with an emphasis on invitation and welcome. The Holy Spirit's mischief will have plenty of room in the planning and in the unexpected moments. The recently re-formed Stewardship Committee continues to lead us in the spiritual discipline of giving so that our ministries thrive, including the leadership from our gifted and dedicated staff. Every offering gift combines to make a big impact on our congregation's mission, affecting real people in real time. Thank you for yours!

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin

How to give your 2024 year-end gift



To deduct your charitable contributions for 2024, gifts given by check or cash must be postmarked by US Mail or be included in the offering by Tuesday, December 31. For electronic givers, be sure to initiate your gift on or before Friday, December 27 so it is posted by your credit card

issuer or bank electronic funds department before year end. Only gifts deposited by December 31 will appear on your 2024 giving statement. Your support of Augustana’s mission and ministry is greatly appreciated.

Questions about your 2024 giving may be directed to **Bill Crossen**, Finance Administrator (303-388-4678 ext. 103 or crossen@augustanadenver.org).



Thank you for your November offerings which supported care boxes for Augustana’s college students, a Remembrance of the Faithful on All Saints Sunday, and canned food collection, worship, and Pie Fest on Thanksgiving Eve.

Income Statement for the Month and Year-to-Date Periods Ended November 30						
	Month Ended November 30			Year-to-Date Period Ended November 30		
	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Revenue	\$89,346	\$145,624	\$123,447	\$1,141,211	\$1,170,515	\$1,059,268
Expenditures	102,054	111,824	121,291	1,254,301	1,243,308	1,154,012
Net income (deficit)	(\$12,708)	\$33,800	\$2,156	(\$113,090)	(\$72,792)	(\$94,744)

Art, awe, and community



Ken Phillips is the Denver artist who created the festive red banners for the Rocky Mountain Synod bishop's installation. He created the Lent banners we contemplated two years ago. He sewed the stunning blue banners that set apart our season of Advent. He orchestrated the creation of the magnificent fabric mosaic banners for our Christmas season—a project of the Regis University community some years ago.

He specializes in liturgical fabric art. But what he really specializes in is beauty and awe in a tapestry of color and design.

Research shows that awe and beauty improve our lives; we feel as though we are a part of something

more expansive than ourselves. It's that feeling of transcendent oneness when we sing together, our voices united in melody, rhythm, and poetry. We are united through our sensory experiences of awe.

Thus far, we've experienced Ken Phillips' art as spectators. Special gifts and memorials, as well as a Thrivent grant, have enabled the rental of Ken's art. Now it's time for us to create!

The Augustana Foundation has provided funding for a community art project for Easter. Ken will design and direct the project. Beginning in February, we will—together—glue on thousands of small fragments of fabric onto banners to create our own community fabric mosaics.

And when we're finished, the art will belong to us—a symbol that we are—together—a beautiful, living, loving, inspiring, awesome community of the risen Christ!

Peace in the New Year,
Pastor Kent Mueller



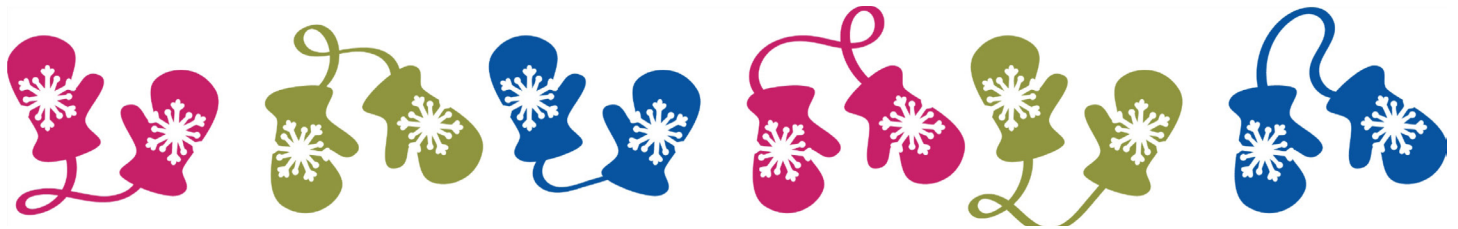
Thrivent gives money to Augustana

At the November 17, 2024, meeting of Augustana Thrivent Financial members, the following disbursements were approved from the Thrivent Choice Dollars designated for Augustana Lutheran Church:

1. \$1,000 for Shanna VanderWel's request on behalf of Youth and Family Ministry for the summer 2025 youth mission trip to Bloomfield, New Mexico, to serve with residents of the Navajo Nation.
2. \$300 for Andrew Peters' request on behalf of Music Ministry to advertise upcoming church concerts and special services.

3. \$575 for Kent Mueller's request on behalf of Spiritual Arts Committee to rent Advent banners for the sanctuary and Christ Chapel.
4. \$500 for Asmir Hodzic's request on behalf of Property Committee to purchase light fixtures for the entry hall and kitchen hallway.
5. \$1,500 to Welcome 150 campaign

If you are a Thrivent member, you may designate all or some of your Thrivent Choice dollars to Augustana Lutheran Church. Contact Thrivent at www.Thrivent.com or 1-800-Thrivent to designate your Choice dollars.



Thrivent action projects support Augustana and its partner ministries

I would like to thank Thrivent for giving members the opportunity to use ACTION PROJECTS to support programs of our choice in our church and community.

With our two \$250 grants for this year we have:

1. Supported the Soup Sanctuary
2. Purchased bilingual books for the parent library at McMeen School, our local elementary school on South Holly Street
3. Collected and purchased shoes for the children at McMeen
4. Purchased and collected gloves and personal items for children at McMeen

McMeen has 700 children, and 400 are bilingual students who have recently enrolled, and their families appreciate the community support and assistance.

Action Projects for 2024 are due by December 31. Action Grants provide an opportunity to generously support our community. For support in completing a Thrivent Project Grant, contact **Duane or Jean Gall** (Duanegall@aol.com) or **Katherine Cruson** (kl-cruson@comcast.net).

–Jean Gall



Overwhelmed by Augustana's Generosity

As we start the new year, we are simply overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity to both the Welcome 150 campaign and the 2025 Annual Mission and Ministry Appeal. In early December, all of our gift intentions combined to reach \$4.92 million for the Welcome 150 campaign. And Statement of Intent cards for the annual ministry were 60–65% of the total 2025 budget. We are extremely grateful for your generosity—it shows that the people of Augustana are committed to our ongoing ministry and to a renewal of our building that will empower that ministry going forward.

Save the Date for a Campaign Celebration

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 2, 2025, for a celebration of the Welcome 150 campaign success thus far. Watch the regular Augustana communications for more details as we get closer.

What can I expect to see in 2025 from the Welcome 150 team and the Stewardship Committee?

- Adult Forum opportunities to learn more about the progress of the planning phases of the planned construction.
- Communication in all the Augustana publications about campaign progress, construction plans, and more detailed information as it becomes available.

FAQs about fulfilling your pledges for Annual Ministry and to Welcome 150:

1. If your Annual Ministry offering amount is changing in 2025 and you give electronically via Vanco or Simply Giving, please contact **Bill**

Crossen, Finance Administrator, to manage that change (crossen@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 103).

2. You can decide how to pay your three-year Welcome 150 Pledge each year:

- a. Give online through a one-time or recurring gift with our secure online portals—visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4QD/campaign/C-153EC> or contact Bill Crossen.
 - b. Execute a gift via phone, stock transfer, wire transfer, donor-advised fund, or a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your investment accounts. If you are over 70 years of age, you may wish to explore making your gift as part of your annual Minimum Required Distribution from retirement accounts. Discuss this with your financial advisor.
 - c. Mail your gift (specifying the Welcome 150 campaign) to Augustana's office.
3. While we are in the planning process, all contributed Welcome 150 funds are held in a separate account and professionally managed in a low-risk strategy to earn interest helping our balance grow.



Congregation Council



ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 19, 11:45 a.m., Sanctuary

- Adopt a 2025 budget
- Elect Congregation Council, Nominating Committee, and Synod Assembly members
- Ratify changes to Augustana's constitution
- Hear updates on Welcome 150
- Absentee ballots will be available as of January 5

Constitutional Changes to be ratified at the Congregational Meeting

At the upcoming Congregation Meeting in January, attendees will be asked to ratify the following provisions to the Augustana Lutheran Church Constitution. These were approved at the January 2024 Congregation Meeting.

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the deacon(s), and not more than 14 members of this congregation. No more than two of the members shall be confirmed high school youths. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause.

C12.02. The members of this Congregation Council (except the pastor(s) and deacon(s) and the high school youth) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for three-year terms or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. The high school youth shall be elected by this congregation for a one-year term from among a slate of up to two youths in a separate ballot category. In all elections, except for Youth, only the persons receiving the highest number of votes, will be elected to the positions open on Council. Their terms of all elected members shall begin on the first day of January after their election.

Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship at a time appointed by the Congregation Council.

November Council Meeting highlights

At its regular November 19 meeting, Augustana's Congregation Council:

- Reviewed the monthly financials for the church, including the preliminary budget for 2025
- Received an update presentation from the Welcome 150 Work Group
- Voted on an Augustana Lutheran Church Conflict of Interest Policy and 2025 Executive Committee
- Planned for calendar year 2025, including the Annual Meeting and Council Retreat
- Completed our discussion of *Tempered Resilience*
- Coordinated the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest—what a great evening!



The John Mills Orchestra

Sunday, January 26 | 2 pm | Fellowship Hall

Music Ministry

Music Ministry offers Big Band fun this January!

I invite you to SWING over to Augustana on Sunday, January 26 at 2 p.m. when we host the John Mills Orchestra in Fellowship Hall. (February 2 at the same time is the backup date in the event of inclement weather.) The first half of this fun program gives a brief history of the Big Band; the second half is a Swing Dance when audience members are invited to “cut a rug” to the sounds of this classic jazz era.

In the style of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Mr. Mills began his band in 2003 and released the

group’s first recording in the same year. A fixture in the Greeley community for decades, John studied music just up the road at the University of Nebraska. He has performed with Bob Hope, Les Elgart, The Dallas Brass, and even backed-up Doc Severinsen. We thank the Augustana Foundation for funding this concert. It will be a toe tapping good time!

Grace and peace,

Andrew Peters

Director of Music and Organist



Children, Youth, Family

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Sunday

Sunday, January 12, we welcome **Dave and Nelli Jarvis** along with some summer camp staff as we celebrate outdoor ministry in our worship and faith formation time. All faith formation groups and their parents will gather in Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:15 a.m. A few camp songs will be practiced if you would like to join in singing them for communion during 10:30 a.m. worship.

Save the date!

Valentine's Day Silent Movie and Supper

Monday, February 17, 4 p.m.

Enjoy the silent movie *Girl Shy* starring Harold Lloyd with improvised organ accompaniment by **Andrew Peters**. This romantic comedy is an 80-minute 1924 romantic comedy silent film perfect for the whole family. Spaghetti supper follows in Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$10 per person and free for age 3 and younger. Funds will support Augustana's youth ministry and summer mission trip.

Communion instruction offered for young people

Communion Instruction is open to those who already take communion and those who are waiting for instruction to take communion. This class is best suited for elementary age kids in first

grade and older. Classes for child and parent will be held Sundays, March 30 and April , 9:30–10:15 a.m. Chalice painting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9 at 4 p.m., and communion will be celebrated at Maundy Thursday worship, April 17 at 7 p.m. RSVP to **Shanna** (shanna@augustanadenver.org) or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by March 1.

Day Camp with Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, July 7–10

Registration for Day Camp with Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp is now open for all kids entering kindergarten through 5 grade in the fall of 2025. Youth in 6th grade and older can sign up to volunteer. Camp runs July 7–10, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. each day. Cost is \$80 per child with a \$160 family maximum.

Register online through this link (<https://www.augustanadenver.org/vacation-bible-school/>), or use the QR code.



Mark your calendars!

Missoula Children's Theatre

This youth camp week, July 28–August 1, is sponsored by Augustana's Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Music Ministry, and Augustana Arts for students entering 1st through 12th grade in the fall of 2025. Each child will be cast in a role in the musical *Treasure Island*. Cost is \$175 per student, and camp hours are 8:30–5 p.m. daily. Watch Augustana's publications for details and registration.

Volunteer Spotlight: Judy and Win Nyquist



Winston, better known as Win, Nyquist was baptized at Augustana in February of 1933. As a lifelong member of Augustana, Win shared many memories of volunteering at Augustana along with his Swedish parents, Rudolph and Amaryllis Nyquist. In 1946, at age 14, after being confirmed at Augustana, Win joined his father's usher team and ushered, until recently, for approximately 75 years! Over the years Win also served on Stewardship Committee. Win described an annual Swedish meal for the entire congregation, hosted by stewardship, a meal that Judy prepared for three nights with over 200 people attending each meal. Judy joined Win at Augustana when they were married in the current location on April 21, 1960. Their years of marriage mirror almost exactly the number of years for our present building.

Judy is remembered as the “cook extraordinaire” with many years preparing tasty homemade meals for Swedish Club, Tri R Couples Club, Lutheran Men of Denver, Pioneer Women Club, Swedish Men of Denver, monthly Senior Ministry luncheons, visiting choirs like St. Olaf, wedding receptions, and the Rocky Mountain Synod meetings. Judy is also known for her famed cinnamon rolls baked for the 9Health Fair volunteers. In fact, any meal served at Augustana was planned and prepared in “Judy’s Kitchen” as the Fellowship Hall kitchen became named! Judy also taught cooking classes like how to bake Swedish rye bread. Win was Judy’s “Sous Chef” helping her as second in command in the kitchen with all the meal preparations, serving and cleaning up! He is an expert dishwasher as well. Together, for many years, Win and Judy hosted Sunday morning coffee hour on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Growing up in Englewood

Win and Judy both grew up in Englewood, Colorado, where they met at Englewood High School and lived until 2020 when they relocated to Castle Rock. Win explained how he rode the streetcar #3 from Englewood to First Avenue where he transferred to streetcar #50 in order to travel downtown every Saturday for three years to attend confirmation class at Augustana. Now that is a commitment to confirmation, indeed! Win reminisced how, as kids growing up at the old church building at 23rd and Welton, they would strive to access and climb the forbidden narrow church steeple! When asked if he ever succeeded, Win replied with a crafty grin, “at least once!” Win and Judy raised three children, Becky, Karl, and Andrea who were all three baptized, and confirmed at Augustana.

Work and hobbies

Win retired in 1995 from Denver Public Service after 30+ years on the job, while Judy retired as a

State Farm agent in Denver. They also opened a hobby and crafting store in Englewood and Judy taught crafting classes. Win loves fixing things and also fishing with their kids. Their son, Karl, to this day is an expert fly fisherman who learned to tie flies at age 10 in a class with his father.

Judy and Win's favorite memories of Augustana include being members of Tri-R Couples Club which was their social life while raising children. Judy also remembers many years of teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for the preschoolers. She was a member of Phoebe Circle, whose members often helped her in the kitchen. Their advice to other Augustana members is to "get involved and take advantage of what is offered here at Augustana. Do more than just attend worship on Sundays."

We are grateful for the years of volunteering by Win and Judy and invite you to extend your thanks to them in person! You can find Win and Judy faithfully at 10:30 a.m. worship on the pulpit side in the back third of our Sanctuary. Win will have a tall wooden walking stick! Thank you both for your time and energy and volunteering years at Augustana.

Sue Ann Glusenkamp, FCN

Interview on December 1, 2024

Study/Fellowship

Adult Forum

Augustana is committed to providing learning opportunities for all ages. Most Sunday mornings at 9:15–10:15 a.m. the Adult Forum meets in the Anna Paulson Room. You are welcome to stop in Fellowship Hall for a cup of coffee and bring it with you!

- **January 5:** No Adult Forum. Join the Cross Gen Faith Formation Epiphany Party in Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:15 a.m.!
- **January 12:** Q & A: 2025 Ministry Budget led by **Pastor Caitlin and Bill Crossen**. Come learn more about how Augustana plans and spends our offering gifts throughout the year in advance of the Congregational Meeting on January 19.
- **January 19:** New Beginnings, a worshipping community inside the walls of the Denver Women's Correctional Facility
- **January 26:** Metro Caring, an Augustana partner in anti-hunger ministry

Discover Augustana Classes for Visitors and Recent New Members

Save the dates!

Sundays, February 9, 16, 23, 9:15–10:15 a.m.

We are offering a Discover Augustana Class for folks who either want to learn more about Augustana or are considering joining the congregation. It's a great chance to get to know some people, too! Classes will be led by the pastors and lay ministry leaders.

Please sign up for Discover Augustana with **Janice Schulz**, Interim Office Administrator, (janice@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678).



Book Group

Monday, January 20, 1 p.m. Youth Room

Join us to discuss James McBride's bestseller *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*. For information, contact **Ellen Kastens** (303-475-7877 or ekkastens@gmail.com). All are welcome.

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us (Goodreads).

Women, Wine and Word will meet Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room. This spring we will be reading *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. Rachel relates her journey back to loving the Bible where she discovers the Bible is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world. For January we will read and discuss chapters 1 and 2.

Women, Wine and Word meets the third Thursday of the month through May. Come join! Bring a snack or beverage to share. Bring a friend. For questions or to be added to the email reminder, contact **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com).

Augustana Homes/Habitat for Humanity

Homes start to take shape

It was an interesting month for Augustana Homes as things continue to move along. There are now three buildings evident on the site, as the excavation for the foundation on the third building is underway! The excavation and excess dirt removal for the third building will be complete soon, and, weather permitting, the crews will begin with the forming and rebar for the foundation system. The site has quickly become very busy, and tight as well, as the layout of the units begin to take its final shape.

The first, most eastern building continues to progress as the interior rough-ins and the exterior finishes are completed. Of particular note would be the brick that is being laid on the front of the house.

This brick is similar in color to that of Augustana's brick and will make for a very attractive look for the Dakota side of the project. The framing

continues on the second building, with crews working on the second floor walls, and soon begin framing on the roof.



Augustana took a bit more "hands on" approach this month, as members of Augustana's staff put in a

work day and contributed a bit of sweat equity to the project on November 16. They were blessed with a beautiful day and terrific folks to work with, and a day of hard work was "enjoyed" by all!

Craig Tamminga,
Facility Manager

Compassion and Action with Our Neighbor (CAN) Ministry

Snacks for Augustana Home Volunteers

CAN Ministry invites you, your Augustana Ministry, or your service organization to provide coffee or hot chocolate or snacks such as cookies, donuts, rolls, or sweet breads to the Augustana Homes construction workers. Please contact **Charlotte Sorum**, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat (build@habitatmetrodenver.org). She will be happy to schedule your treats and communicate how and when you may deliver them.

Thank you for stocking the shelves!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated food on Thanksgiving Eve. Augustana

members and friends donated **271 cans** and several boxes of macaroni and cheese. These items were divided between George Washington High School and Augustana's Sanctuary Soup Shelf. Also, a big shout out to **Don Troike** and **Glenna O'Neal** for moving and sorting the cans.





It's our January edition of Operation Pantry!

Our always-popular intergenerational activity, repackaging rice and beans for Metro Caring returns Sunday, January 26. If you are between the ages of 5 and 99, join us in Fellowship Hall, 9–10:15 a.m. to help divide the large 20 pounds bags into 2-pound packages.

You are also invited to participate by way of donating rice, beans, or money. Monetary donations are used to cover the cost of zip lock bags, gloves, and other related supplies. Please make checks payable to Augustana and indicate “Operation Food Pantry” on the memo line or donate online through Augustana’s giving page.

If you would like to help set up on Saturday, January 25, contact **Don Troike** (don.troike@gmail.com).

Thanks for Thanksgiving “Baskets” for Warren Village and First Step

Thank you to Augustana members and friends for the 110 King Soopers gift cards and 660 cans/boxes of instant mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, green beans, corn and peaches which were delivered to Warren Village and First Step single-parent families before Thanksgiving. All items are very much appreciated! Thrivent Financial Action

Team grants provided the food, and generous gifts from Augustana members provided the King Soopers gift cards.

Next CAN Ministry Meeting

Our next CAN Meeting will be held Sunday, January 12, noon–1:30 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room. All are welcome to attend and join us as we serve our community with compassion and plan 2025.

Augustana team welcomes refugee family from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains contacted Augustana in early November to seek co-mentoring and sponsorship for a refugee family from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Sumaidi family, a mom, grandma, two girls 14 and 11 years old, a 3-year-old boy and a 5-month-old baby, arrived on November 14 from a UN refugee camp in Tanzania at DIA as legally admitted refugees for resettlement.

Our Augustana Welcome Team 6 (**Amy King, Janis Johnson, Gerd and Kathy Renno, Sheryl Kamicar, Krista Rahe, Terry Lumme, Pastor Karen**) warmly welcomed them and helped to get them to their initial lodging. In addition, the team provided some warm clothing, furnished the apartment, stocked the kitchen, and supported the family as they learn the shopping process in their new home. They are on their way to learning English, adapting to a new culture, and getting situated with schools and a job.

Any food or age-appropriate donations in kind would be much appreciated. If you would like to help, contact **Gerd Renno** (520-975-8924), **Pastor Karen** (pastorkaren@augustanadenver.org), or Amy King (amyking0607@gmail.com) for item suggestions and logistical arrangements.

Human Dignity Delegates offer two January opportunities

Human Dignity Delegates meet Sunday, January 26, at 12:15 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room to explore our desires for involvement in the public space in 2025. Bring your ideas and passions to see how we can put our faith into meaningful action. If there are books you would like to read, bring those titles to share. Grab Sunday Lunch and come enjoy exploring the possibilities for 2025.

Due to the recent departure of Peter Severson from the Rocky Mountain Synod Advocacy Ministry Colorado, no plans for the Annual Lutheran Day at the Capitol have been made. Watch your email for any updates.

For additional information on these events or to be added to the email list, contact **Katy Lunsford** (Katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com).

Legislative Power Kickoff

Human Dignity Delegates are also invited to attend a virtual “Legislative Power Kickoff” in the evening of Sunday, January, 19, hosted by Together Colorado. Additional information will be provided in January.



Care of Creation

Augustana's Advent Adventure on Sunday, December 8, offered a delightful celebration for all ages. The Care of Creation Team of CAN Ministries made Christmas tree ornaments with a couple dozen young people using nature's offerings of seeds from this past season's flowers in the garden. Here are some pictures to delight your senses, with special thanks to the following people for creating a welcoming atmosphere with the gathered seeds:

Jean Gall, Duane Gall, Robin Hoffman, Bonita Bock.

5000 E. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80246



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, Colo.
Permit No. 118

Place mailing label here



1 Anika Mortenson
Hank Clambey
Karin Sanderson
Ketcher White

3 Jim Gustad

4 George Cotton
Kim Esbenshade
Linda van Dyk

7 Sarah Nick

9 George Meister

10 Bradley Boodt
Christopher Cochrane
Grace Blanchard

12 Diane Pilloud
Susan Aarup

13 Phyllis Lerud
Robert Penn

14 Brian Cox
Fikir Yohannes
Marilyn Daves
Mats Engdahl

15 Brandon Stratton
Calvin Stone
Maren Massie
Winston Nyquist

16 Betty Nelson

18 Scott VanOrdstrand
William Reinert

20 Kelly McCartney

21 Katherin Howell
Melanie Vanderhoof

22 Arlo VanderWel
Venus Conklin

23 Brynn Stadolnik
Maddie Lamphere
Ruth Peterson

24 Amy Beswick
Bethany Lutz
Jay Freed
Katrina Crook
Noah McCartney
Pamela Ninke
Shirley Barr

25 Donna Vaughters
Eloise Wolfe
Susan Talbot

26 Jeff Towery

27 Abby Farrand

28 Charles Esbenshade
Mary Richardson
Sonja Engebretson

29 Tracy Lutz

30 Jordan Tribbett
Julie Zavala
Sheryl Kamicar

31 Matthew Miller

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