

Three opportunities to love our neighbors through Augustana's **Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors Ministry** this February:

Donate socks, underwear, and more for our neighbors at McMeen Elementary, George Washington High School, and Foster Source.

[Details are socked away on page 16.](#)



Assemble Personal Care Kits for our neighbors around the world including California wildfire victims.

[Carefully follow the directions available on page 17.](#)



Buy a Fight Hunger bag and support our neighbors who rely on Augustana's Sanctuary Soup Shelf.

[If you're *hungering* for details, see page 15.](#)





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](https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver.com)

Mission Statement: Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship

- **In-Person Worship**, Sundays, 8 a.m.
- **In-Person/Streamed Worship**, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
- [Watch on Facebook](#)
- [Watch on YouTube](#)

The Tower is published monthly for Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO, 80246-8104. There is no subscription fee.

Thursday, February 13, 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for the March edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Congregation Council:

President: Roger Lipker
Vice President: Heather Nelson
Secretary: Sean-Casey King
Acting Treasurer: Bill Crossen
Betty Boyd Jo Martin
Jim Dierker Nancy Nyhus
Janet Flesch Pr. Caitlin Trussell
Jack Kusek Brian Willoughby
Morgan Levy

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

for hope and healing:

- Dale Arden
- Frank and Sandy Bair
- Sandy Barker
- Helen Blanz
- Jacquie Reynolds Buetow
- Jay Carlson
- Venus Conklin
- Rick Frampton
- Barbara Grande
- Arvetta Hjelmstad
- Muriel Itecht
- Max Johnson
- Patrick Johnson
- Samantha Lengyel
- Greg Lunsford
- Dianne Nelson
- John Nelson
- Robert Pace and family
- The Reiger Family
- Jim Sanderson
- Steven Stevens
- Mike Tinker
- Diane Wichert

for comfort and courage:

- Kari Degerness in the death of her friend, Cheryl
- Kari and Krista Degerness in the death of their friend, Adam
- Family and friends of President Jimmy Carter in his death
- Jayme Howard in the death of her friend, Greg Chavez
- Geneva Corace in the death of her husband, Ross Corace
- Linda Crow and family in the death of her husband, Harvey Crow
- Family and friends of Dorie Fie in her death
- The Levy family in the death of their friend, Betty Henkowski
- Brian Willoughby in the death of his friend, Nik Krull
- A.J. Levy in the death of her friend, Susana Levy
- Dick Larson in the death of his friend, Dan Malenke
- Kari Kusek in the death of her uncle, David Mohs
- Dane Vierow and Pastor Karen in the death of their friend, Betty Lou Nelson
- Family and friends of Orvid Olson in his death
- Deacon Shanna VanderWel in the death of her uncle, Erv Sahr

Rejoice with

- Parents Ross and Lauren Kastens and grandparents Jamie and Ellen Kastens in the birth of James Ross Kastens III "Tripp," January 4
- Emma Rebecca Tormey, daughter of Michael and Haley Tormey, in her baptism



Dianne Nelson has moved to Wisconsin!

Be part of her Card Shower!

Dianne recently relocated to be closer to family. She has facilitated the Altar Guild ministry for many decades including the coordination of Maundy Thursday worship's riveting conclusion during which everything is reverently removed from the Sanctuary chancel. Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the chancel (worship leadership space) in both the Sanctuary and Christ Chapel for weekly worship including scheduled baptisms. (Their work is complementary to Spiritual Arts who decorate these spaces in the liturgical seasons.)

Between now and February 16, for Dianne's card shower, you may bring your own card or fill one out from the stack of blank greeting cards located on the coffee table in the Office Welcome Space and place it in the box. Or, mail your own card to:

Dianne Nelson
801 S Klein Dr #224
Waunakee WI 53597

"Thanks, Augustana!"

Dear Augustana family and friends,
Please accept my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the loving retirement blessings at Bless the Years worship and lunch as well as Sunday worship services and a delightful brunch celebration. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and feel very honored as well as humbled by your kindness and recognition.

Thanks to all of our Health Ministry teams who showed up en masse to prepare and offer such a beautiful brunch. You are extraordinary!

Special gratitude to my beloved partner, Ron, for his continued support and love over many years. Our partnership in ministry over 48 years has enriched my life and my career. Thank you!

It has been a privilege to serve as your Faith Community Nurse. I am confident God's Spirit will call another faith-filled nurse to continue Augustana's rich history of Health Ministry.

With deep gratefulness and prayers for a very happy and healthy 2025!

Stay well, with love,

Sue Ann

Thank you for the gifts!

Health Ministry

- in memory of Orvid Olson

Property

- in memory of Orvid Olson

Special Gifts

- in memory of Dorie Fie and Orvid Olson

Pastor Caitlin Trussell

The Book of Love

The Monotones (1957) and Peter Gabriel (1990) both sang songs called “The Book of Love.” The sentimental songs are about romance, and each have a bit of a bossy edge. When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians that includes the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, he too was a bit bossy about love. Although, in Paul’s case, he was exhorting against the classist behavior exhibited by the church in Corinth that was creating conflict in this fledgling first century faith community.



The recent presidential transfer of power has some Americans cheering it and some lamenting it as we cruised by Rev. Dr. King’s birthday and Inauguration Day towards Valentine’s Day. On January 20th, I posted the following on Augustana’s Facebook page:

“Love is the only force capable of turning an enemy into a friend.” MLK Jr.

Rev. Dr. King’s challenge includes working towards positive peace that signals the presence of justice over and above a negative peace that is merely the absence of tension (Letter from Birmingham Jail, 1963). He was a Christian preacher AND a public leader. Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for them AND to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 5:44, Matthew 22:37–40). There’s plenty there to focus our days on bringing hope, healing, and justice to the world that God so loves. [end of FB post]

As Valentine’s Day approaches, I offer the reminder that neither rudely harassing people nor handwringing energizes change. Love does. Love is subversive when it’s a behavior that cares for

others as self. St. Valentine’s sainthood is sketchy history that seems to include a grisly martyred death. Let’s stop shy of that mess to remember that the self-sacrificial love of Jesus calls us to the behavior of love in 1 Corinthians 13 towards enemy and neighbor alike. There is no more powerful force in the world than this love that never dies.

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin

Cut out this reading, or open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13 and read it daily in February.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Pastor Karen Ullestad

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need . . . we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

—Evangelical Lutheran Worship 712

This hymn reminds us that our worship is not only what we do on Sunday mornings. My seminary professors taught over and over that worship is the most important action of a congregation. It is through our worship that we are sent into the world to love and serve the Lord. Our worship services at Augustana strive to be thoughtful and faithful, and full of reverence, giggles, and beauty.

But our worship does not stop at the entrance door. We are sent into the world to make known the needs and burdens of others with the compassion of Christ. Hope, and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give. Our team, who is resettling a family from the Democratic Republic of Congo, worships with goodwill every time they

help find the correct bus route or closest bank to the family's apartment. Those who serve at the sanctuary soup shelf worship with hope and health when they refill the food closet. Our prayer chain ministers worship with comfort and peace each time they pray the name of someone who has died.

As you gather for worship this and every week, I invite you to pray for your own needs and the burdens of others. We include a time in our intercessions “. . . and for others we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.” You will be nourished and sent out in Jesus' name—to worship in humble service.

Pastor Karen



Pastor Kent Mueller

The tip of the iceberg

You have no doubt heard the phrase: that's just the tip of the iceberg.

So much of what goes on at Augustana is hidden, beneath the surface. You likely show up for worship and find it to be meaningful, or beautiful, or inspirational, or healing, or insightful. Or all of the above.

But did you ever think about how many people and how many hours of imagination and planning and preparation go into making that happen? Did you ever make the connection between your offering, and the people who are passionately serving the congregation to make our worship and ministry possible? I thank YOU for your generosity!



Christmas Eve is an excellent example of the invitation that we extend to the wider community to sing of that Silent Night, Holy Night and to be a place of welcome.

On Christmas Eve, Augustana opened its doors to 1094 worshipers! That's 177 more than 2023 and 297 more than 2022! These are numbers to truly celebrate!

The quiet dedication of staff and volunteers and musicians to make that happen deserves a heartfelt round of applause and gratitude!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Kent

Looking Ahead to Lent: “Is Any Body There? Yes!”

The Surgeon General’s Advisory on loneliness recognizes the healing effects of social connection and community. Well, we have that in abundance as God connects us through the cross of Christ! The Deacon and Pastors pray that our six weeks of Lent together will deepen our connections with God, each other, and our community.

Sundays

Each week the pastors will incorporate the theme “Is Any Body There? Yes!” into their sermons, and will reflect on themes related to the Body of Christ—Embodiment, Mystery, Beauty, Sabbath, and Mortality.

Our midweek Lenten schedule will include opportunities to walk together as pilgrims, as the body of Christ, to use spiritual practices, and to serve as prayer partners for our community.

Wednesday

- All Day Spiritual Practices Room open

- 6:15–7 p.m. Worship and Reflection on Pilgrimage, lead by **Pastor Bonita Bock**.
No soup supper prior to worship.

Fridays

- 9–9:30 a.m. Prayer Chain will be read together in Christ Chapel

Augustana’s 60+ Ministry will also be offering a midweek daytime study on Pilgrimage led by **Pastor Bonita Bock**.

Details about worship, study, and other spiritual practices for Lent will be available in the March Tower!



Children, Youth, Family



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 6, 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 Deacon Shanna (shanna@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 107) by March 1.

Music Ministry

Sing with the Augustana Singers on Ash Wednesday

Augustana Singers will meet this month to prepare music for the noon Ash Wednesday service (March 5). Rehearsals are Wednesdays, February 19 and 26, 9:15–10:15 a.m. All are welcome to sing! Please reserve a spot ahead of time with **Andrew Peters** (peters@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678 ext. 122).

Perfect for the
whole family!



Valentine's Day Silent Movie & Spaghetti Supper

Monday, February 17 | 4 p.m. | Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

***Girl Shy* starring Harold Lloyd**

1924 | 80 minutes | Improvised Organ Accompaniment by Andrew Peters

Spaghetti Dinner follows in Fellowship Hall

Tickets: \$10/person; Free/under age 3; Scholarships available

Funds will support Augustana's youth ministry and summer mission trip

Scan the code to reserve your place!



Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rearranging the furniture: A Sanctuary Banner Update

It's the New Year and you've taken down the Christmas tree. The room suddenly feels empty and bare. So you rearrange the furniture a bit. Maybe hang some art on a different wall. Suddenly, the room is alive again.

That's what we did in the Sanctuary as we began the green season of Sundays after Epiphany. We placed some candles in different places. We tried out the placement of green art banners in a way that plays upon the asymmetry of the architecture. And suddenly the room is alive again.

Because when our furnishings and art are never moved, we cease to see them anymore.

The Spiritual Arts team continues to take that to heart, so that our worship space is vibrant and alive. Thus, they have determined that the time is right for us to take down the needlepoint



tapestries in the sanctuary for a time. We treasure their artistry and the astounding number of hours given by the faithful saints at Augustana who created them for the observance of Augustana's 100th anniversary. They will be well cared for.

The time is right, especially as Augustana embarks on a new community art project for Easter in observance of our upcoming 150th anniversary. But this new art will be temporary, changeable, seasonal, as we seek a unified intentionality to the beauty represented by our liturgical art in our place of worship.

So as our season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, that is also the right time for us to lay bare our worship space—and our hearts—so that we are ripe for the renewal of Easter.

Welcome 150 Art Project Opportunities for Art Captains and for you!

A community art project is planned for the Augustana community. We will be creating fabric mosaic art similar to the sanctuary Christmas art installation. Ken Phillips will be our "artist in residence."

Art Captains are needed to be trained in the project and then oversee art-making sessions. The Art Captain Training is Sunday, February 2, noon–1 p.m. in Rooms 6 and 7.

Beginning the week of February 9, art-making sessions will then be each Sunday from



noon to 2 p.m. and each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon, again in Rooms 6 and 7. Sessions will also take place during some Sunday morning sessions of GIFT and Breakfast Club for children, youth, and families to participate.

Contact **Pastor Kent** (kentmueller@augustanadenver.org) to be an Art Captain. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the church office to sign up for art-making sessions. About 12 persons at a time can be accommodated.



Welcome 150 Mission Statement

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

As the first phase of Welcome 150 fundraising celebrates our amazing success—raising \$4,950,000 in just over three months—we remain optimistic about reaching the overall goal of \$8.5 million in time to celebrate Augustana's 150th birthday in September 2028.

Your generosity simply “wowed” our fundraising consultants and far exceeded everyone's expectations. In addition to the funds raised, we have also seen intangible results—new connections made between congregation members and between congregation members and pastors. There's a feeling of excitement in the air about the future of Augustana.

This early success enables us to move forward with planning and design work in preparation for

the projects outlined in the Prospectus. As this work continues, there may be some shifting of projects between priority levels, as we learn more about the construction process. For example, the organ refurbishment must be coordinated with the sanctuary renewal so that any dust-causing work is complete before the organ pipes are reinstalled. And the organ company has a waiting list of projects ahead of us, so we must patiently wait in that queue. As anyone who has done a home remodel knows, there are many “this before that” situations and sometimes other needs that arise.

This wonderful generosity in these early days is cause for celebration—**please plan to join in celebration on Sunday, March 2 at Coffee Hour (9–10:15 a.m.) in Fellowship Hall.**

Call for 2024 Annual Reports

Reports from Augustana committees and staff are due on Thursday, February 6 to Publications Administrator, **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org). Please submit a brief report that shares how you or your committee or organization supported Augustana's mission to worship, grow, and go in 2024. You are welcome to include photographs.

Published reports will be available for the congregation by Sunday, February 16.



Lunch & Learn: 2024 Augustana Highlights & More

Sunday, February 16, noon–1 p.m., Anna Paulson Room

Join **Roger Lipker** (Congregation President), **Pastor Caitlin**, and **Bill Crossen** to hear about 2024 ministry highlights, ask questions, and connect with each other. When Augustana chose to go from two congregational meetings a year to one, an informal opportunity to discuss Augustana has become much appreciated. Plan to pick up a Sunday Lunch and bring it to eat in the Anna Paulson Room.



Thank you for your December offerings which supported the cross-gen fun of Advent Adventure, caroling by and for Augustana members and friends, and the celebration of Sue Ann Glusenkamp's ministry and retirement.



Income Statement for the Month and Year Ended December 31

	Month Ended December 31			Year Ended December 31		
	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Revenue	\$192,005	\$197,646	\$253,233	\$1,333,215	\$1,368,162	\$1,312,500
Expenditures	113,655	124,854	130,787	1,367,956	1,368,162	1,284,799
Net income (deficit)	\$78,350	\$72,792	\$122,445	(\$34,741)	\$-	\$27,701

Remember to give your regular offerings to make a real impact in real time. Each gift of every amount is essential to making ministry happen in and through Augustana. Please use electronic giving (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4QD/campaign/C-12APD>) for your offering when possible because it's secure, easy, and can be set up for weekly, monthly or annual gifts to keep the monthly ministry budget on track. Thank you!



2024 Congregation Council

Back row from left: Brian Willoughby, Janet Flesch, Betty Boyd, Bill Crossen, Roger Lipker, Jayme Howard, Pastor Caitlin Trussell, Sean-Casey King. Front row: Heidi Johnson, Heather Johnson, Nancy Nyhus

Staff News

Faith Community Nurse Search

A Search Committee has been formed to find Sue Ann's successor. **Beth Warren** will facilitate the meetings and process. The first meeting is in early February. Many thanks to these folks for their time and expertise!

- **Emmett Cruson**, 60+ Ministry
- **Jena Requist**, E4 Mental Health Ministry
- **Inez Smith**, RN, Health Ministry and Interim Faith Community Nurse
- **Beth Warren**, MD, Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (and occasionally Knitters)
- **Pastor Caitlin**

Call Committee begins associate pastor search

The Call Committee has begun meeting again after a pause and additional time of discernment to begin in earnest the search for the next associate pastor. The goal is to have a new associate pastor this summer. Required paperwork is being updated, and conversations with Council and Synod have begun. With approval from the Council, the call committee membership has been updated. The members include **Betty Boyd** (alternate), **Katherine Cruson**, **Heather Frank**, **Michael Graham**, **Tim Libby**, **Katy Lunsford (chair)**, **Holly Massie** (alternate), and **Alan Motes**. Pastor Caitlin is fully engaged with the process. We ask for your prayers as we enter into this next phase.

AUGUSTANAARTS

Music of the Vine

Join Augustana Arts at Music of the Vine, a wine tasting and music pairing performance, Saturday, February 1, 7 p.m. at The People's Building (9995 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, 80010).



Featuring Stratus Chamber Orchestra's conductor and certified sommelier **Adam Torres** and jazz expert and sommelier **Michael Schreier** alongside a jazz pianist and vocalist, this program will take you artfully through classic American sounds and tastes. You will be guided through a curated selection of four American wines, paired perfectly with jazz, big band, and popular classics from The Great American Songbook. Listen to artfully selected tunes as you sip the wine, chosen specifically to highlight each wine's tasting notes.

Get your tickets online at AugustanaArts.org/tickets/music-vine.

Music Encounters Classes

Augustana Arts presents two small-group Music Encounters classes at Augustana Lutheran Church now through the end of the school year to get young learners hands-on with instruments:

Violin: Students will be hands-on with violin from day one, learning the basics of violin and music-making.

- Now through May 31, two Saturday-morning 10-week sessions
- Perfect for beginners or those with a few months of violin experience
- Ages 6–12
- \$185/10-week session, instrument and all supplies included

Ukulele and Singer-Songwriting class: Students will learn to play ukulele and use those skills to write their own songs.

- 10-week session, Sunday, March 30–June 1
- Ages 8–15
- \$185/10-week session, instrument and all supplies included

Register online at AugustanaArts.org/me-weekends.

Celebrate Heart Month this February

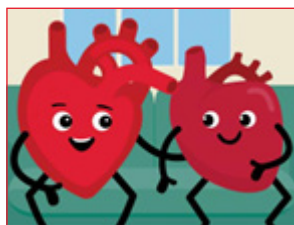
I am honored to serve as Interim Faith Community Nurse. As previously shared, I will be helping in a per diem role, mostly focusing on home visits, but am available as a resource if needed. Please reach out (303-388-4678 ext. 106 or nurse@augustanadenver.org) with any questions. I look forward to continuing the meaningful work of our ministry teams and getting to know some of you better.

February is Heart Month. Join the Health Ministry Team during coffee hour on Sunday, February 2 for heart healthy snacks, pick up information on heart healthy living, and get your blood pressure checked!

Inez Smith, RN

Interim Faith Community Nurse

Heart Month 2025 Take Action to Take Care of Your Heart



- **Get Enough Quality Sleep** - Lack of sleep or getting poor-quality sleep increases the risk of having high blood pressure, heart disease, and other medical conditions.
- **Maintain a Healthy Weight** - Maintaining a healthy weight is important for overall health and can help you prevent and control many diseases and conditions.
- **Eat Better** - A flexible and balanced eating plan can help lower your high blood pressure and improve your cholesterol.
- **Be More Active** - Getting enough physical activity helps to lower your risk of heart disease and stroke. Adults should spend at least 150

minutes (2 ½ hours) each week doing physical activity.

- **Stop Smoking** - Any amount of smoking, even light or occasional smoking, damages your heart and blood vessels.
- **Control Cholesterol** - Unhealthy levels of cholesterol can increase the risk of developing heart disease.
- **Manage Your Blood Sugar** - Maintaining stable blood sugar levels is crucial for heart health, especially for people with diabetes or those at risk of developing diabetes.
- **Manage Your Blood Pressure** - Keep your blood pressure in a healthy range and keep track of your numbers. Blood pressure that's consistently higher than 130/80 mm Hg can cause serious health problems.
- **Manage Stress** - Learning how to manage stress with healthy coping strategies helps improve your emotional and physical health.
- **Practice Self-Care and Find Social Support** - Studies show that having positive social support, close relationships, and feeling connected to others makes it easier to stick to heart-healthy habits.

Info from: <https://www.cdc.gov/heart-disease/php/heart-month/index.html>.

Study/Fellowship

You're invited to an Iftar dinner during Ramadan!

Augustana has a long and respectable relationship with our cousins in the faith, both ecumenical and interfaith.

With the Holy Month of Ramadan in March, members of Augustana have been invited to an Iftar dinner (breaking of the daily fast during Ramadan) by members of the Multicultural Mosaic Foundation (mosaicfoundation.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting understanding and dialogue.

Rev. Bonita Bock has had many occasions to break bread with members of Mosaic while



engaging in dialogue. She will accompany members of Augustana who would welcome this opportunity on Thursday, March 13, 6–8:30 p.m. (14232 E. Evans Ave., Aurora).

The agenda will include learning more about Ramadan and Mosaic itself as well as a

fine dinner. There is no charge, but donations are graciously received.

RSVP to Augustana's office (303-388-4678) by Wednesday, March 5. Space is limited.



Discover Augustana Classes for Visitors and Recent New Members

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, in the church office (janice@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678).

Adult Forum

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

- **February 2:** Augustana welcomes **Krista Kilgus** from **Urban Servant Corps** to worship and Adult Forum
- **February 9:** Welcome 150 Work Group update
- **February 16:** Reflections from the Deacons and Deaconesses in our community
- **February 23:** Learn more about **New Beginnings Worshipping Community**, the women's prison ministry, from the president of its congregation, **David O'Rourke**

Book Group



Monday, February 17,
1 p.m., Youth Room

Join us to discuss Alice McDermott's *Absolution*, a riveting account of women's lives on the margins of the Vietnam War. For information, contact **Ellen Kastens** (303-475-7877 or ekkastens@gmail.com).

All are welcome.

In Saigon in 1963, two young American wives, Tricia and Charlene, form a wary alliance: one a starry-eyed newlywed, the other a practiced corporate spouse and a determined altruist on a mission to relieve the “wretchedness” she sees all around her.

Sixty years later, Charlene's daughter reaches out to Tricia, now widowed and living in Washington. As the two relive their shared experience in Saigon, they are forced to come to terms with the ways their own lives have been shaped and stunted by Charlene's pursuit of “inconsequential good.” Alice McDermott confronts the unresolved mysteries and ironies of America's tragic interference in Southeast Asia (Goodreads).

Women, Wine and Word

Women, Wine and Word meets Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room. We continue our study of *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans with chapters 3 and 4. Evans brings her insight on the Bible in a fresh and effective way, allowing us to question it all. If you missed January, you are welcome. Bring a friend. Bring a snack or beverage to share, and join in the exciting conversation. Contact **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com) for additional information or to be added to the email reminder list.

Learning Beyond Your Living Room

- First Wednesday of every month, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- **Urban Servant Corps** (1660 Ogden St. Denver, CO 80218)
- Suggested donation of \$20 for learning and lunch, provided

Why join this on-going social justice lunch group?

This is an opportunity to expand your understandings of the world (and city!) around you. An invitation back to servanthood and social justice. A way of engaging with other like-minded folks for a better community.

During the year we will address:

- February 5: Immigration
- March 5: First Nations
- April 2: Advocacy
- May 7: Creation Care/Environment
- June 4: LGBTQIA+
- July 2: Israel/Palestine
- August 6: TBD

In February, we will learn about Immigration.

We will hear from local organizations that offer support for immigrant rights and offer resources that can be used in deepening your involvement in immigration justice and reform. The “excursion” portion will be a trip to Casa de Paz, a place of hospitality located near the ICE Detention Center in Aurora that welcomes recently released newcomers, Asylum seekers, and immigrants. They facilitate next steps towards reunifications with loved ones in a dignifying way.

RSVP to krista@servantcorps.org so we can count you in for food!

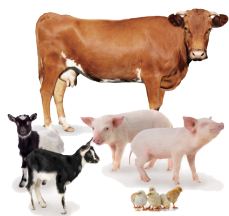
Welcome Connection

1,000 People in the Seats

It's 2025, and the Welcome Connection Ministry is in action mode! At our first meeting of 2025, we celebrated the fact that over 1,000 people came to celebrate Jesus' birth in an Augustana Christmas service! What an amazing celebration! What a joy it was to see the pews so full!

To continue the strong feeling of community, here's our February challenge for the Augustana community: 1,000 people in the seats! At the end of February, we'll add up the attendance for all four Sundays (8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and Livestream services). Our goal is for the total to surpass the 1,000 mark. We can do this!

Compassion and Action with Our Neighbor (CAN) Ministry



**How many ELCA
Good Gifts
Farms did we
purchase this
Advent?**

A total of \$4,901 was donated for ELCA Good Gifts Farms during Advent—that's about seven farms!

Your generosity will help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty—for good. A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make all the difference. Thank you for your gifts!

CAN Ministry plans and projects for 2025

First meeting of 2025

On January 12, the CAN Ministry Team met to discuss our 2025 activities and projects. Loved the positive energy and enthusiasm in the room. Then, mixed with laughter, it was a fun meeting.

February events

In February we will again sponsor **Undie Sunday**, led by **Amy King**, and **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**, led by **Jean Gall**. These initiatives benefit the lives of so many people in our community and around the world. The donation period is February 2 to March 2. *(See details next page.)*

Fight Hunger bags from King Soopers

"King Soopers selects the Sanctuary Soup Shelf at Augustana Lutheran Church to benefit in February and March." This was the title of an email received January 6 from our neighboring King Soopers on Leetsdale. We were quite surprised to hear about our selection.



In a nutshell here's what the program means: Augustana's Sanctuary Soup Shelf will receive \$1 for every \$2.50 reusable *Fight Hunger* bag King Soopers sells during February and March. Starting in February, you will begin seeing posters in the Leetsdale King Soopers store (4600 Leetsdale Dr., Glendale) announcing the program. Augustana will publish information through our Facebook page and other media. Please buy a bag, and tell all your friends and family about the reusable bag program.

Refugee Support

CAN Ministry will continue supporting the Sumadi Family from the Democratic Republic of Congo throughout 2025. If you would like to learn more about our involvement, you may contact **Amy King** (amyking0607@gmail.com) or **Kathy and Gerd Renno** (520-975-8924).

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CAN Ministry plans and projects for 2025

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Support Augustana's CAN Ministry in 2025

Here are a few, but not all, initiatives that the CAN Ministry has on our radar screen for 2025. If any of these activities sound interesting to you, contact **Annie Nessa** (amnessa@comcast.com). We would love to have you join our ministry. There's always someone to help you get involved.

- Organizing shoes at Wholly Kicks
- Visiting the State Capitol to learn more about our legislative process and how new legislation may impact our lives
- Helping us celebrate Earth Day by attending a panel discussion or participating in a clean-up day

- Donating funds for gift cards in support of Warren Village Easter Baskets
- Celebrating overworked teachers with a small treat
- Supporting immigrant families settling into housing
- Volunteering at the Augustana Homes Build by welcoming volunteers, providing snacks, or participating at a workday

Come to our next meeting

Our next Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 9, noon–1:30 p.m. in the Anna Paulson Room.

Hey, Augustana—what's that under there?

UNDERWEAR!

Get it? Under where/underwear? Hahaha . . .

Augustana's CAN Ministry will be hosting its **SIXTH** annual Undie Sunday from February 2 to March 2. **We are asking for donations of toddler-to-teen-sized underwear, socks, and feminine**

hygiene pads. We will NOT be collecting diapers, wipes, or tampons this year.

CAN would like to specifically focus on collecting toddler-to-teen-sized undies and socks. Half will be donated to our local school, McMeen Elementary, and half will go to Foster Source as this is a need they have identified. Feminine pads will be donated to Ruby's Market and George Washington



High School. They have more of a need for pads than tampons.

Items may be brought and placed around the altar from Sunday, February 2 to Sunday, March 2. You may even order items online and have them delivered to

Attn: Undie Sunday at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave, Denver, CO, 80246.

Thank you for assisting our community with their unseen needs in a visible way.

If you have any questions about this donation drive, contact **Amy King** (amyking0607@gmail.com).

Help make or supply Personal Care Kits for Undie Sunday, February 2–March 2

A **Personal Care Kit (PCK)** is five items for personal care: **towel, bar of soap, sturdy comb, toothbrush, and nail clipper**. See details at <https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>.

Lutheran World Relief (associated with ELCA World Hunger) distributes them to refugees who have fled their homes for safety or to families whose homes are destroyed by disasters. They flee with minimal items in their backpacks. They arrive in refugee camps scared, vulnerable, and dirty from travel. The simple items in a PCK help restore their dignity.

During Undie Sundays in February, Augustana members and friends can assemble PCKs or donate any of the five items. There will be boxes in Fellowship Hall and the narthex to place single items for PCK assembly. Assembled kits can be placed at the communion altars. Assembling PCKs is a great opportunity for friends and families with young children to become aware of the needs of others in the world and to share God's love.

Tips for buying and assembling PCKs:

- Carefully follow the assembly guidelines!
- If you purchase multi-pack toothbrushes, put the individual toothbrush in an envelope.
- Buy *lightweight* towels in dark colors so they can dry quickly in the camps.
- Do not add any other items or use any plastic bags.
- Assemble the four items in the folded towel and secure with yarn, ribbon, or rubber bands.
- See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbrsNn0j5D0>.

Thrivent members can consider using 2025 Thrivent Action funds to purchase kit items.



Augustana usually sends about 120 PCKs, but with so many disasters **let's make a goal of assembling 200!**

You may also give a financial donation to ship the PCKs (\$1.50 per kit). Make checks payable to Augustana and designate "Personal Care Kit" in the memo line; or, [donate online through Augustana's giving page](#).

Personal Care Kits around the world

- When the PCK kits arrived in Tsykrkuny, Ukraine, the Lutheran World Relief staff member heard many people say "Thank you for remembering us."
- A grandmother appreciated being able to bathe with soap included in the PCK (USA).
- In 2023, PCKs went primarily to Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Angola, Mali, Congo and five other countries. A total of 123,920 PCKs were made.
- Currently, LWR kits are being assembled for victims of the California Wildfires. Also, in October 2024, 10 truckloads of PCKs were sent to the southeast part of the US in response to the Milton and Helene hurricanes and flooding.

Human Dignity Delegates

Human Dignity Delegates will NOT hold a regularly scheduled meeting in February. Lutheran Day at the Capitol has been the normal meeting in February, but currently there is no Lutheran Day scheduled. Stay tuned.

You are encouraged to sign up for Together Colorado's Legislative Alerts at <https://www.togethercolorado.org/legislation/>. These alerts allow you to stay informed on specific bills in this legislative session that impact human dignity, on which Together Colorado has taken a position.

Contact **Katy Lunsford** (katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com) to be added to the email list or to learn about opportunities on how to live out your faith in the public space.

Don't miss out on the building of Augustana Homes!

New dates have been added through May 2025 for Holy Hammers'-sponsored builds. Holy Hammers is a coalition of Lutheran churches in the Metro Denver area with members who donate their time to fundraise and participate in the construction of affordable housing:

- Saturday, February 15, 8:50 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (*Register by February 1.*)
- Saturday, April 26, 8:50 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (*Register by April 12.*)
- Saturday, May 10, 8:50 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (*Register by April 26.*)

We also have a date for painting in their new Production Shop (430 S. Navajo St., Denver):

- Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

The deadlines are two weeks prior. Please use the following link to register:

- <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>

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

- <https://denver.volunteerhub.com/vv2>

Or, if you would like to arrange a special day for your group, please contact Michael Zumwalt to make arrangements. Contact info below.

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

If you would like additional information on how to get involved with Holy Hammers, or other Habitat for Humanity volunteer opportunities, please contact **Michael Zumwalt** (303-907-6305 or michaelczumwalt@gmail.com).





Care of Creation

Denver's compost program ramps up

If you live in the City and County of Denver, you probably received “Waste Wise News,” the newsletter of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) which oversees Denver's compost program. The latest edition noted upcoming changes.

While Augustana contracts with Compost Colorado so that the church and our members can compost more than is received by the City, it is interesting to note the future plans of the program whether or not you reside in Denver.

To offer some back story, you may recall that the goals of the 2022 voter-approved Waste No More ordinance intended to expand composting city-wide. A great goal! However, “making composting accessible, affordable, and effective is a complex strategy of infrastructure, education, regulations, and investment for cities,” according to an article by Natalie Kerr in *Life on Capitol Hill*. Curbside composting is relatively new in the United States and needs time to gain momentum, but it is worth the benefits that composting brings to the community.

Because composted soil saves water, sequesters carbon, and is more productive in reducing landfill waste and methane emissions, public interest continues to be high. The ordinance passed with 70% voter approval.

For these reasons, DOTI is making an effort to ramp up the compost collection services. The plan does not affect Augustana, but may well affect members here. It is good news that the city will complete its city-wide rollout of compost collection service for yard and kitchen waste in March, nine months earlier than anticipated. This is done at the expense of recycling weekly (moved to every other week), but it means more households can participate more fully in composting. We can support the efforts and hope that with additional participation, composting will ultimately expand to include more than yard and kitchen waste, and weekly recycling pick-up will return.

Here's to Denver's efforts to reduce our footprint on God's good earth, and, in fact, return soil from our compost to the landscape!

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Denver, CO 80246



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Ogden Willoughby
Tanner Levy
- 3 Linda Crow
Randa Degerness
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- 5 Julie MacDougall
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- 7 Marcel Batorowicz
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- 8 Amy Tamminga
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- 9 Grace Crook
- 11 Kathleen Edstrom
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- 14 Bernie Smith
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- 21 Cole Hankins
David Aarestad
Heather Nelson
- 22 Chris Cochrane
Harry Esbenshade
Rick Friesen
Sheryl Dirks
- 23 Dianne Nelson
Erin Saboe
Laura Libby

- 24 Kent Mueller
Meghan Gentes
 - 25 Kay Madsen
 - 27 Candace Jones
 - 28 Donald Thomson
Marcia Stevens
 - 29 Ryan VanderWel
- If your name should
have been on this list
but wasn't, please call
Augustana's office
(303-388-4678).*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div> <div>Sunday Faith Formation</div> <div>9:30am GIFT Confirmation Breakfast Club</div> <div>Sunday Children and Youth Music Ministry</div> <div>9am Cherubs Choristers Chancel Handbells</div> <div>Noon Cantabile Chapel Ringers Recorder Ensemble</div> </div>						1 8am Altar Guild
2 Presentation of Our Lord Health Ministry Sunday 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Augustana Knitters Noon Art Captains Training <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	3 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 7pm Augustana Foundation: Governance Committee	4 7pm Augustana Foundation Grantmaking Committee	5 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	6 Annual Reports due!	7 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 10:30am Celebration of Life: Dorie Fie 11am Bulletin Assembly 3pm Wedding	8 8am Altar Guild 8am Congregation Council Retreat
9 Epiphany 5 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Discover Augustana 9:15am Health Ministry Team 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Executive Council Noon Art-Making Session <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	10 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 4pm Welcome 150 Steering Committee	11 10am Art-Making Session 6pm Children, Youth & Family Ministry Committee 7pm Augustana Foundation Board: Annual Meeting	12 9am AELC Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	13 2pm The Tower deadline 60+ Ministry	14 Valentine's Day 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 10am Property Committee 11am Bulletin Assembly	15 8am Altar Guild 9am PEAK Support Group
16 Epiphany 6 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Discover Augustana Class 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Lunch & Learn: 2024 Augustana Highlights Noon Art-Making Session <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	17 Presidents' Day - office closed - Augustana 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Book Group 4pm Valentine's Day Silent Movie & Spaghetti Supper	18 10am Art-Making Session 4:30pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Congregation Council	19 9am AELC Chapel 9:15am Augustana Singers 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	20 10am Sarah Circle 7pm Women, Wine, and Word	21 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly <div>Youth Winter Retreat - February 21-23</div>	22 8am Altar Guild
23 Epiphany 7 8am Worship/Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Discover Augustana 9:15am E4 Mental Health 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Art-Making Session <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry above</i>	24 7:30am Foot Care Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	25 10am Art-Making Session 1pm The Tower Assembly 7pm Rachel Circle	26 9:15am Augustana Singers 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group 7:15pm Chancel Choir	27	28 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	