

## Holy Week and Easter at Augustana

### Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, April 13

- 8 a.m. **Worship/Communion**  
– Christ Chapel
- 9 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast  
– Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. **Worship/Communion** (N, L)  
– Sanctuary

### Maundy Thursday, April 17

- Noon **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary
- 7 p.m. **Worship/Communion** (L)  
– Sanctuary

### Good Friday, April 18

- Noon **Worship** – Sanctuary
- 7 p.m. **Worship** (L) – Sanctuary

### Easter Sunday, April 20

- 7 a.m. **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary  
First Light of Easter
- 9 a.m. **Worship/Communion** (N)  
– Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt – Courtyard
- 11 a.m. **Worship/Communion** (N, L)  
– Sanctuary

(N) Nursery care available | (L) Livestreaming available

Additional information about Holy Week and Easter begins on [page 7](#).



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](http://augustanadenver.org)

EMAIL: [info@augustanadenver.org](mailto:info@augustanadenver.org)

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

**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, April 17, 4:30 p.m.** is the deadline for the May edition. Email **Lyn Goodrum** ([goodrum@augustanadenver.org](mailto:goodrum@augustanadenver.org)).

#### Congregation Council:

**President:** Roger Lipker

**Vice President:** Heather Nelson

**Secretary:** Sean-Casey King

**Treasurer:** Brian Willoughby

Betty Boyd Morgan Levy

Erin Brown Jo Martin

Robert Brown Nancy Nyhus

Jim Dierker Pr. Caitlin Trussell

Janet Flesch

#### 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
- **Alice Alister**, AV Technician
- **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:

- Brian
- Molly and Amy
- Dale Arden
- Cyrus Atherton
- Sandy Barker
- John Connors
- CJ Earhart
- Nadine Fingland
- Thomas Hambrick II
- Reinhard Hauck
- Doug Hein
- Mahmoud Khalil
- Kate and Dale La Pard
- Dick and Judy Larson
- Don Munson
- Leah Nunn
- Vera Schulz
- Guishan Shariff
- Alyssa Stickler
- Mary Tinker
- Arlo VanderWel
- Pat Van Dyck
- Janet Weber
- Marcia Zimmerman
- Diane Zarlengo

### For comfort and courage:

- Erin Brown in the death of her aunt, Patrice Churchill
- Family and friends of Bonnie Connors in her death
- Sonja Engebretson in the death of her friend, Myrna Dahl
- Rob Trussell in the death of his family member, Chavez Gilmore
- Margaret Aarestad in the death of her nephew, Michael Charles Helling
- Dan Howard in the death of his grandmother, Margaret Lyon
- Family and friends of Kyle Oleson in his death
- Jerry Rundgren in the death of his brother, Rob Roy
- Brian Mims in the death of his mother, Lois Sanders
- Judy Edwards in the death of her sister, Sue Simpson

## Rejoice with

- Danielle Renaud in her baptism

## Thank you for the gifts!

### Welcome 150

- in memory of Dora Fie



**Thank you** for your February offerings which supported Discover Augustana classes for newcomers, blood pressure checks during Heart Month by Augustana's Health Ministry Team, and a Silent Movie and Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Augustana's Youth Ministry.



With gratitude, your regular offerings of any amount make ministry happen!

## Income Statement for the Month and Year-to-Date Periods ended February 28

	Month Ended February 28			Year-to-Date Period Ended February 28		
	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2024 Actual
Revenue	\$134,976	\$112,335	\$121,774	\$266,563	\$246,272	\$227,793
Expenditures	99,549	106,233	110,649	206,589	213,386	224,211
Net income (deficit)	\$35,427	\$6,102	\$11,125	\$59,974	\$32,886	\$3,582

## Pastor Karen Ullestad

*O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r,  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flow'r.*  
(Stz. 2, ELW 328 )

As Bishop Aelabouni wrote in her synod article, for many people Lent is often associated with Jesus' time in the wilderness and journey to the cross. However, if we remember that the word Lent means *Spring*, we might be able to enhance our Lenten understanding to correspond to a time of new growth. We wait for the first arrival of new buds on trees. We rejoice in the lengthening of days to provide more sunshine that warms the earth and the sky. So, too, our lives of faith are stirred, or awakened, by the Spirit to



be released from the fears and sin that inhibit our growth. This Lenten hymn invites us to be open to growing in our practice of faith, *having new images of God renewed in our hearts.*

The darkness of a seed planted in the ground may correspond to the darkness we feel living in a world of pain and sickness or confusion. Yet, we look forward to the day of resurrection when all things will be made new. Our lives, all of creation, our work, recreation, and relationships will all be raised to life with Christ, who brings us out of darkness into the light of grace, forgiveness, healing and hope.

Through these days of Lent we have had the opportunity to worship and serve in ways that will offer a breath of Spring to all whom we meet. As we look forward to Easter, may we know *Risen life that death cannot destroy!*

**Pastor Karen**



# Lent at Augustana: Is Any Body There? Yes!

Jesus lived on our earth as we do, sharing with us an embodied presence. During Lent, we are invited into reflection on what it means to be human, as embodied people who are longing for connection, healing, and hope. And—because of Easter—we are now the Body of Christ, alive in the world.

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus shows us that we are never alone. The Surgeon General's Advisory on loneliness recognizes the healing effects of social connection and community. During Lent, we will, together, deepen our connections with God, each other, and our community.

## Sundays

**Worship** at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**Adult Forum** at 9:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

Each week the pastors will incorporate the theme **"Is Any Body There? Yes!"** into their sermons, and we will reflect on themes related to the Body of Christ:

- March 30: **Sabbath** - Pastor Caitlin
- April 6: **Mortality** - Pastor Kent

## Tuesdays

### 60+ Pilgrimage

April 1 and 8, 10–11 a.m., Youth Room

60+ hosts **Pastor Bonita Bock** as we explore the purpose, meaning, and rewards of pilgrimage. (Being 60 or older is not a requirement. If you are interested in joining us, please come!)

IS ANY BODY  
THERE?  
YES!

EMBODIMENT  
MYSTERY  
BEAUTY  
SABBATH  
MORTALITY

## Wednesdays

April 2 and 9

**Spiritual Practices Stations**, 7 a.m.–7 p.m., Spiritual Practices stations will be arranged around the sanctuary, including a centering prayer station, Lectio Divina, and walking the indoor labyrinth. You may enter at the west doors of the Sanctuary.

**Worship and Reflection on Pilgrimage**, 6:15–7 p.m., Christ Chapel

*\*No soup supper prior to worship\**

Led by **Pastor Bonita Bock**, we will use prayers, readings and songs from the Iona tradition, in Scotland. We will reflect on how the journey of pilgrimage has led people to different destinations seen as sacred. We will refer to specific pilgrimage destinations as a way of opening our thoughts to what we might encounter on our Lenten Pilgrimage, both outwardly together and inwardly personally.

## Fridays

### Prayer in Christ Chapel

April 4 and 11, 9–9:30 a.m., Christ Chapel

The Prayer Chain will be prayed together in the Chapel, along with time for solitude and silence. Led by **Pastor Karen Ullestad**.



# Easter “Baskets” for Warren Village and First Step Families



Continuing Augustana’s over-25-year tradition of providing Easter baskets to Warren Village and First Step residents, Augustana members and friends may donate by check to Augustana (indicate “Warren Village baskets” in the memo line) or online at Augustana’s Giving page at [augustanadenver.org](http://augustanadenver.org) by Sunday, April 13. The residents prefer gift cards so they can do their own shopping. Augustana purchases King Soopers gift cards for \$40 each, but any contribution is appreciated. There are 101 units for Warren Village and First Step single-parent families. Thrivent Action Team grants will provide \$500 for additional food items. Thanks for your generous support!



Warren Village and First Step provide a safe apartment in two residential buildings, job training, and child care for low-income families whose parent is working, getting an education or both. Learn more at [warrenvillage.org](http://warrenvillage.org).

## Music Ministry

### Sing with the Augustana Singers on Maundy Thursday

The Augustana Singers is open to any wishing to sing in the noon Maundy Thursday worship service on Thursday, April 17. The choir will rehearse on Wednesdays April 9 and 16, 9:15–10:15 am in the Choir Room. We thank **Christelle Menth** for her fine piano playing for this choir. For questions or to reserve a spot, please contact **Andy Peters** ([peters@augustanadenver.org](mailto:peters@augustanadenver.org) or 303-388-4678).



# Help Augustana’s Easter Garden bloom!

Your gift in honor or in memory of loved ones will add lilies and flowers to the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and support Augustana’s youth ministries. The suggested contribution for each individual you wish to honor or remember is \$8. Make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church. Use the donation form here or on the back of your Sunday worship slip, or scan the code to [donate online](#). Gifts must reach Augustana’s office by Palm Sunday, April 13, to be included in the Easter Garden insert. Thank you!



### Give a plant a home!

Following the 11 a.m. service on Easter, you are invited to take a plant home or to share with someone!



### Easter Garden - please print or type

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Pastor Kent Mueller

### “Behold the cross”

When I was serving St. Paul Lutheran Church in Warren, Ohio, I asked John, a veteran who was good with wood, to make a large, wooden cross for our Good Friday liturgy. In my formative years at First Lutheran Church in Longmont, I had always been moved by the Good Friday liturgy, which included the procession of a large cross.



In Warren, I invited members of the congregation who desired to come forward for a “meditation on the cross.” I explained that they might simply pause in prayer, or perhaps kneel and touch the cross. It is a long-standing liturgical practice in many congregations.

These were Ohio folks who weren’t all that demonstrative with their words . . . or their actions. I imagined a handful would come forward for this ritual that was entirely new to them.

But it was John who arose from his pew first, approaching the cross and pausing there for a long, long time, reaching out to touch the cross he had crafted.

He was followed by just about everyone. And I realized that there is deep, deep meaning in the rituals we do as embodied people. We experience the death and resurrection of Christ in and through our bodies, even as we are the living Body of Christ, alive in the world.

On Good Friday, April 18, at noon and 7 p.m., we will gather to be confronted by God’s Word, to pray for the world as we kneel for the expansive Bidding Prayer, to witness the Procession of the Cross, and to meditate upon it with our minds and our bodies.

Peace be with you,

**Pastor Kent**

## Pastor Caitlin Trussell

### Wanna Play God? Not So Fast, Easter is Coming

Easter is about as late in the spring as it gets this year. It’s not a holy day easily pinned down because it falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21). I don’t have room to elaborate on it here, but feel free to web search the tradition of this fun fact. What I do want to say is that it’s an aptly mysterious calculation for a holy day that celebrates the mystery of Jesus’ resurrection.



Lent used to bum me out. The call to repentance smacked of a darkness that I wanted to avoid. Now I long for Lent’s reverent and repentant 40 days. Holy Week? Even better. Jesus rejected violence, and his death reflects the worst of what humans do to each other when we play God. Easter triumphs over death and the baser human instincts with reckless grace. On Easter Sunday we proclaim, “Christ is risen!” This can only be good news if we trust that Jesus emerges from the tomb radiating grace.

Jesus’ resurrection reveals that God’s intention for humanity is good. God’s promise in the resurrection is that we are not left to languish in the worst we can do to each other. Rather, we are empowered by the Spirit into faith and the goodness of being created in the image of God. Enjoy these last few weeks of Lent—even the hush of Holy Week. For Easter is coming, and it will be glorious, indeed!

Peace,

**Pastor Caitlin**



# Holy Week and Easter at Augustana

## Palm Sunday Breakfast



You're invited to Augustana's annual Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 13, 9–10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall! Free will donations will support Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Augustana.

There will be no Sunday Lunch on this day.

## Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday, April 13

Worship at 8 a.m. in Christ Chapel and 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Augustana youth will host breakfast in Fellowship Hall, 9–10:30 a.m. Children and youth are invited to process with palms at 10:30 a.m. worship. Livestreaming and nursery care will be available for 10:30 a.m. worship.

8 a.m. **Worship/Communion**  
– Christ Chapel

9 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast  
– Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. **Worship/Communion**  
– Sanctuary

## Maundy Thursday, April 17

Join us for Maundy Thursday worship at noon or 7 p.m. in Augustana's sanctuary.

The word Maundatum means “commandment.” In our gospel, we will hear Jesus’ commandment to his disciples to love one another. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jesus demonstrated that love by washing his disciples’ feet at the supper before his death.

Last year we washed our hands to prepare for servant leadership. This year we will have the washing of feet and receive Holy Communion. Several young people will receive communion for the first time. All are welcome!

Noon **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary  
7 p.m. **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary

## Good Friday, April 18

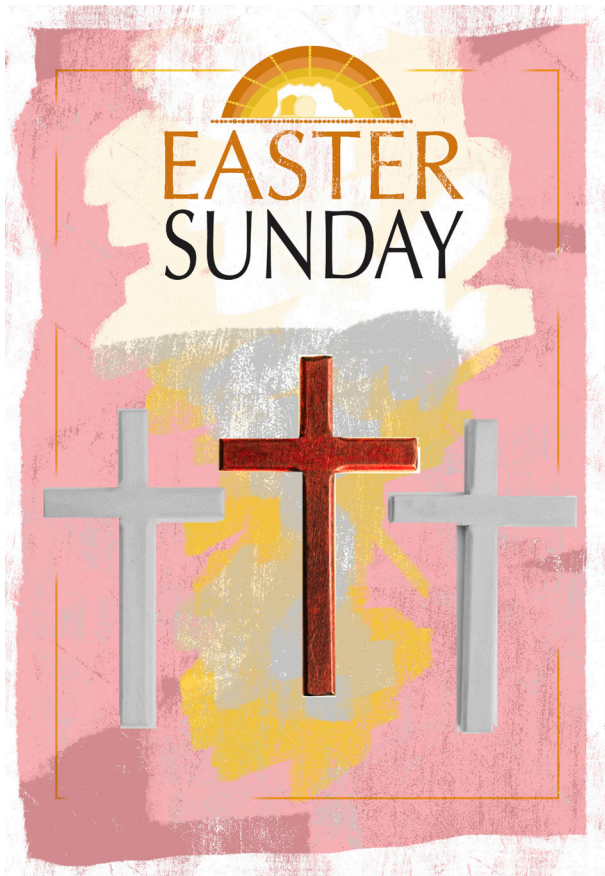
Worship with hymns and readings at noon and 7 p.m. Livestreaming will be available at 7 p.m.

Noon **Worship** – Sanctuary  
7 p.m. **Worship** – Sanctuary



# Easter Sunday, April 20:

New First Light of Easter Liturgy is at 7 a.m. followed by Festival Worship with choirs and brass at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m



Our contemplative First Light of Easter Liturgy at 7 a.m. on Easter morning draws from the traditions of the ancient Easter Vigil as we gather just after dawn to welcome the Risen Christ.

The Easter Vigil is one of the most ancient and profound liturgies of the Christian faith, celebrating Christ's passage from death to life. Traditionally held on Holy Saturday night, it begins in darkness, symbolizing the tomb, and moves into the radiant joy of resurrection.

The service begins with the lighting of a new fire, from which the Paschal Candle is kindled, representing Christ, the Light of the World. The congregation then hears scripture readings that recount God's saving work throughout history, culminating in Jesus' resurrection. Affirmation of

Baptism is central to this service, as early converts to Christianity were baptized at dawn.

As the first light of Easter morning breaks, we begin in quiet reflection before moving into joyful celebration. Our 7 a.m. First Light of Easter liturgy is followed by our Easter Festival Worship with choirs and brass at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Worship at 11 a.m. will be livestreamed, and nursery care will be available for 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship.

Invite a friend or neighbor to experience the radiant new life of Easter on April 20!

- 7 a.m. **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary  
First Light of Easter
- 9 a.m. **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt – Courtyard
- 11 a.m. **Worship/Communion** – Sanctuary

## Welcome Connection

### Almost 1,000 welcomed in February!

As you may remember, Welcome Connection's challenge for February was to have over one thousand worshipers in attendance during February. **The attendance (both worship services and livestream) for all four Sundays added up to 980!** We were very close! We can't wait to see what happens on Easter!

There are many opportunities to attend a worship service before Easter. We would love to fill the seats on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Starting with Palm Sunday and the Youth Breakfast fundraiser, we look forward to sharing God's word in ALL services during Holy Week.

# Staff, Pastors, and Personnel Committee Updates

## Temporary Front Office Volunteers

In light of Jan Schultz's departure, three volunteers are sharing this role as decisions are made about staffing needs: **Judy Peters** (Monday), **Lynn Tyler** (Tuesday), and **Christelle Menth** (Thursday) 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Thank you all!

## Faith Community Nurse:

### Spread the Word about our Nurse Position!

Share the link to the job posting with friends, family, and neighbors! (<https://www.augustanadenver.org/ministries/health-ministry/faith-community-nurse-position/>)

## Interim Pastors

**Pastor Karen's** and **Pastor Kent's** current contracts as Assisting Pastors conclude in May. Both offered to continue in some capacity until our new Associate Pastor is called and installed. Pastor Caitlin is working with them on the details.

**Personnel Committee** is working to better understand and prioritize staff contributions to Augustana's mission as well as staff well-being in terms of how their gifts are maximized for their own growth and development. Staff completed a Job Description questionnaire. Personnel Committee established a process to synthesize their responses for review with the current job descriptions.

Contact **Pastor Caitlin** with questions [pastorcaitlinrussell@augustanadenver.org](mailto:pastorcaitlinrussell@augustanadenver.org).

## Seeking Livestream Technician

Each week, 25–35 folks tune in live on Sunday mornings to be a part of our extended worshipping community. We are grateful for **Jesse Crone** having served as one of our livestream technicians this past year. Having finished his degree at CU Denver, he is returning to California to further his career in film audio.

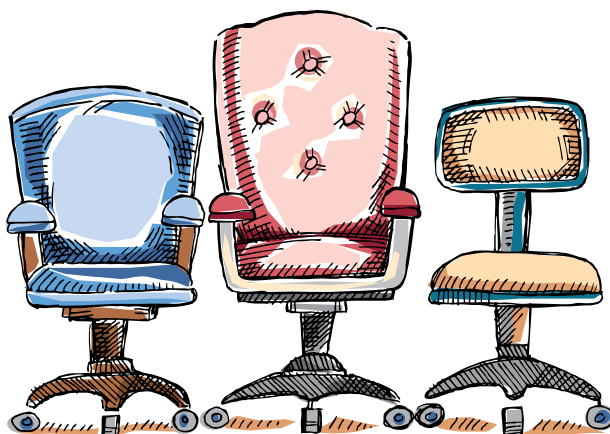
Jesse has served along with **Alice Alister**, trading off each Sunday, along with occasional funerals and special events. We are now seeking someone with an AV temperament and passion to fill Jesse's absence.

If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact **Pastor Kent** ([kentmueller@augustanadenver.org](mailto:kentmueller@augustanadenver.org)).

## Call Committee Progress

The Call Committee provided an updated Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to the Congregation Council on March 18. The MSP was approved and submitted to the Synod Office. The Synod will now be able to provide names of potential candidates for consideration. Updates on the process will be provided as soon as there is information to report.

Please direct any questions to **Katy Lunsford** ([katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com](mailto:katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com)).



# Ammerman Library

## We give thanks for our librarians and our library renewal

We give heartfelt thanks for **Linda Crow**'s many years of service as Augustana's Librarian. Her dedication made the library a welcoming space for learning and discovery. As we celebrate her service, we warmly welcome **Billie Wolter** as our new librarian.

Thanks to a grant from the Augustana Foundation, the Ammerman Library is now a renewed conference space, featuring a 70-inch TV monitor for meetings and studies. Conference tables that had been donated to the Augustana Early Learning Center have found a new home in the library.



We invite everyone to explore the updated library and join us in gratitude for those who have made this transformation possible.

## Congregation Council

### Congregation Council Report

The first quarter of 2025 has been an active one for Congregation Council.

- After the Congregation elected this year's council at the annual meeting, the new Council was installed at both worship services on February 2.
- Representatives include **Betty Boyd** (parliamentarian), **Erin Brown**, **Robert Brown** (youth), **Jim Dierker**, **Janet Flesch**, **Sean-Casey King** (secretary), **Morgan Levy**, **Roger Lipker** (president), **Jo Martin**, **Heather Nelson** (vice president), **Nancy Nyhus**, **Brian Willoughby** (treasurer), and **Pastor Caitlin Trussell**.

- In January and February, the Council approved a new Gift Acceptance Policy and a Welcome 150 Work Group recommendation to contract with an architectural firm to begin design work on the facility renewal project.
- The March meeting agenda included an associate pastor Call Committee report, another Welcome 150 Work Group report, and the beginnings of a Strategic Plan review by a committee of **Pastor Caitlin**, **Nick Massie**, **Jordan Ourada**, **Janet Flesch** and **Roger Lipker**.





## Welcome 150 Art Project in final weeks of creation

The first half of our Welcome 150 Easter Art Project was completed in eight weeks with 35 individuals contributing over 100 hours. We are on track to complete the second panel prior to Easter. We have been most grateful for the artistry and guidance of our artist-in-residence, Ken Phillips.

We meet in Rooms 6–7, Sundays at noon and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Stop in to check out our progress and glue down some fabric mosaic pieces!

## Welcome 150 Campaign exceeds \$5 million!

At our Welcome 150 Celebration Coffee on March 2, an inaugural quarterly update was distributed, featuring the incredible news that the campaign has exceeded \$5 million! It is included as an addendum to this Tower newsletter.

Since it was printed, we have received additional gifts—your AWESOME generosity continues to keep the momentum building! Out of the \$5,160,987 in commitments made so far, over \$2 million has been received by the church and is invested through the professional firm, Castle Rock Investment Company. This firm also manages the Augustana Foundation's investments. Utilizing a low-risk strategy, these funds have already earned \$16,365 (as of February 28, 2025) which adds to our bottom line as we await the construction process.

As we approach our 150th anniversary of founding in 2028, we will continue communicating with the congregation about the status of our Welcome 150 initiatives, including our capital campaign and the status of our building projects.



## 60+ Ministry

### Bless the Years

**Thursday, May 8, 11 a.m.**

Worship in Augustana's Sanctuary followed by catered lunch in Fellowship Hall! Watch your mailbox and Augustana's publications for invitations and details!



## Health Ministry

# April is National Garden Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trusted Source says gardening is exercise. Activities like raking and cutting grass might fall under the category of light to moderate exercise, while shoveling, digging, and chopping wood might be considered vigorous exercise. Either way, working in a garden uses every major muscle group in the body. This fact won't surprise anyone who's woken up sore after a day of yardwork. Along with the exercise and reaping the benefits of all the fresh produce grown, here are some other health benefits of gardening:

- The physical exertion of working in a garden may help offset both age-related weight gain and childhood obesity.
- People who garden are more likely to get a solid seven hours of sleep at night.
- Gardening can help protect your memory as you get older.

- New evidence shows that gardening activities may spur growth in your brain's memory-related nerves.
- Gardening is a mood booster.
- Studies in the United States and abroad have found that gardening improves your mood and increases your self-esteem. When people spend time in a garden, their anxiety levels drop and they feel less depressed.
- Family and community gardens foster feelings of connection.
- Working in a garden with people of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds is a way to expand both what you know and who you know.

Source: <https://www.healthline.com/health/healthful-benefits-of-gardening#improves-memory>

## Calling all gardeners!

Augustana's Community Garden was established to encourage healthy food choices and to share our bounty with others experiencing food insecurity. We donate some of our harvest to SAME Cafe (So All May Eat). We are gearing up for gardening season! You are welcome to join us if you want a full or partial plot or if you want to be a helper.

On April 6 we will have an information table during Coffee Hour and Lunch Hour. Come see us then! Or contact **Robin Hoffman** ([rhoffmania@me.com](mailto:rhoffmania@me.com)) or **Karen Lambert** ([lambert747@msn.com](mailto:lambert747@msn.com)).





# An Invitation to all Nurses

**Faith Community Nursing of the Rockies** presents their Spring Spirit of Caring Conference here at Augustana on Saturday, April 26 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Dr. Lorraine Leist**, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Older Adults, from Montview Presbyterian Church, will be the guest speaker sharing about the Spirituality of Aging.



We will be celebrating Nurse's Week a little early with High Tea at noon and Blessing of the Hands at the end of the conference.

RSVP by April 15 to **Mel Huibregtse** ([melhib2@gmail.com](mailto:melhib2@gmail.com)), or talk with **Inez Smith** in person or at [nurse@augustanadenver.org](mailto:nurse@augustanadenver.org) if you have questions. There is no registration fee to attend.

## Augustana members and friends enjoy Iftar dinner during Ramadan at Multicultural Mosaic Foundation



Thirty-five members of Augustana, plus a few others who joined us, broke bread together on March 13 after learning from members of Mosaic about the meaning for them of Ramadan, Mosaic, and the Hizmet Movement of which they are a part. Hizmet encourages dialogue and understanding around the globe. We were engaged in both.

Thank you to everyone who participated as we seek to peacefully celebrate our commonalities while respectfully recognizing our differences.



# Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors (CAN) Ministry

## Spring events enjoyed and events yet to come



### Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donations to Undie Sunday and Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. What a wonderful outpouring of love and caring for our neighbors. This year, 390 undies, 394 pairs of socks, 846 feminine hygiene products, and 220 Personal Care Kits were donated. **George Washington High School, Ruby's Market, Foster Source, McMeen Elementary, and Lutheran World Relief** are recipients of these gifts.

### Listening: Issues crucial to our neighbors

On March 8, a few Augustana members attended a Together Colorado training session which taught us how to organize and advocate for ourselves and others. Based on those skills, we will be conducting meetings intended to identify each attendee's most crucial issue affecting them. In other words, what keeps you awake at night? Meetings like ours will be held across a large portion of Colorado, and all the data will be combined. The combined data will assist our legislators in understanding what is important to Coloradans and draft bills or support

existing bills that are important to you and our communities. Ultimately, we want positive changes to our lives.

### Spring Activities

- Warren Village Easter Baskets Project will run through April 13. [See details, page 5.](#)



- On March 6, **Lance Wheeland** and **Betty Boyd** gave Augustana members and friends a tour of the State Capitol. Since the Senate was in session, Lance arranged for us to be seated in the chamber. Several Senators stopped by and chatted, and Betty Boyd was recognized as a former Senator. A BIG SHOUT TO BETTY AND LANCE!
- Please join us in the Anna Paulson Room to celebrate EARTH DAY on May 4. See Adult Forum article, next page.

### Everyone Is Welcome

If you are wondering how to get involved, attend one of our Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors meetings, or contact **Annie Nessa** ([amnessa@comcast.net](mailto:amnessa@comcast.net)).

## Human Dignity Delegates to host house parties

In lieu of our monthly meeting, during April, Human Dignity Delegates will reach out to Augustana members and friends to be invited to house meetings held at various times and locations. The purpose of the meetings is to listen and hear what our faith values say about the current state of our community, state, and nation. This conversation is meant to build a multi-faith solidarity movement to influence a path forward where all are welcomed. This movement is being led by Together Colorado through member congregations, such as Augustana.

Contact **Katy Lunsford** ([katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com](mailto:katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com)) if you would like additional information or to be added to the list of participants.

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## Study/Fellowship

### Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:15–10:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

**April 6: “Mortality,”** Pastor Kent, Lenten Theme “Is Any Body There? Yes!”

**April 13:** No Adult Forum—Palm Sunday Breakfast

**April 20:** No Adult Forum—Easter

**April 27:** Deacon Shanna “**Sabbatical Travels to Greece**”

**May 4:** Augustana’s Response to Climate Anxiety

### May Adult Forum discusses Climate Anxiety

Sunday, May 4, 9:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

What do you do when you hear about stresses on our planet? Our ecosystems? Our children and grandchildren? When it comes to our climate? Does what we do really matter?

Augustana’s CAN Ministry and Health Ministry host **Christine Homan**, licensed Professional Counselor, for our Adult Forum on May 4. Christine specializes in existential crisis and eco-distress. In her presentation she’ll explore the psychology and neuroscience behind climate distress, explaining why so many of us feel overwhelmed, anxious, or disconnected in the face of the climate crisis. We’ll also discuss practical strategies to navigate these emotions, build resilience, and stay engaged without burnout.

Augustana seeks to be a congregation taking an active and practical role in Care of God’s creation, and that includes care for ourselves and the mental health of our loved ones.

Check out other Care of Creation/Earth Day activities at <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>.

### Book Group

Monday, April 21, 1 p.m. Youth Room

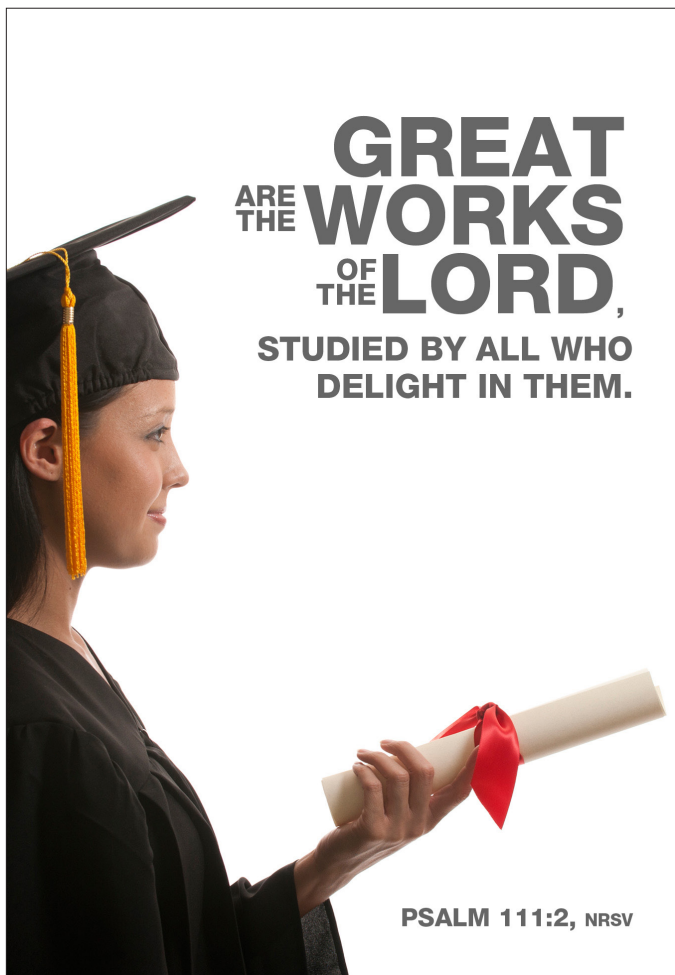
Join us to discuss Min Jin Lee’s *Pachinko*, a story of love, sacrifice, ambition and loyalty. For information, contact Ellen Kastens (303-475-7877 or [ekkastens@gmail.com](mailto:ekkastens@gmail.com)). All are welcome.

From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan’s finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee’s complex and passionate characters—strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis.

### Women, Wine and Word

Women, Wine and Word meets Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room. Note: this is a change to the second Tuesday of the month to avoid Maundy Thursday. We conclude the book *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans, discussing chapters 7 and 8. Bring a friend and join the lively discussions, and bring a snack or beverage to share.

Contact **Katy Lunsford** ([katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com](mailto:katy.p.lunsford@gmail.com)).



### “Used” Bibles for High School Seniors

Help make the high school seniors’ Bibles “used” by underlining your favorite verse/Bible story, sharing a message of faith, and signing your name! Bibles will be in Fellowship Hall on April Sunday mornings.

### Honoring our High School Seniors

Please join us in celebrating and recognizing our high school seniors, Sunday, May 4 in Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:15 a.m., and at 10:30 a.m. worship.



### Celebrating another year of Faith Formation!

Augustana hosts its annual **Faith Formation Bash** on Sunday, May 4, 9:30–10:15 a.m. in the courtyard and Fellowship Hall. We conclude and celebrate our faith formation for the school year with the bounce houses and yummy treats. This celebration is for all ages!

Mark your calendars for September 14 for the start of Faith Formation in the fall.

### Come to the Variety Show and Cake Auction between services May 18!

Augustana’s youth host a Variety Show and Cake Auction, Sunday, May 18, 9:15–10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy some fun talents of our youth and bid on delicious and fancy cakes and desserts!



# Augustana Foundation

## Augustana Foundation funds Property Committee Projects

Through a 2025 Augustana Foundation grant of \$50,000 to the Capital Improvements Fund, the Property Committee plans several projects in and around our buildings throughout the year. Some will be more visible than others.

The first project—and one that will be most visible to both congregation members and the broader community—will be the lighting of the main church building exterior. Currently, the bell tower can be seen from quite a distance, but the church itself fades into the night sky.

There are two components to the lighting project. The first is relighting the aluminum cross on the west face of the building. Vintage fluorescent tubes

were discovered behind the cross. The existing electrical wiring will accommodate the installation of LED lighting to highlight this beautiful feature which has been hidden in plain sight for many years. An architectural highlight, this exterior cross is a mirror of the cross behind the altar. The second part is the installation of up lights (LED) on the north and south sides of the building, highlighting the white cast concrete structural ribs.

Other projects include new electrical controls for the entire irrigation system, additional irrigation improvements, the final installation churchwide of LED lights, and selling the current buses and replacing them with Sprinter vans.



## Augustana Homes

### Building 1 nears 90% completion!

Along with the warming weather, things are really heating up on site for the Augustana Homes!

Building number 1, the far east building, is nearing 90% completion. The interior finishes are underway, and it will soon be ready for the final touches. Building number 2, adjacent to number 1, now has a roof in place and the masonry on the front of the house is complete. Rough-ins for the plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems are near completion, and the drywall will be hung soon. Building number 3 has the framing for the first floor complete, and the second floor and roof framing should be completed within the next several weeks. The foundation for building number 4 was completed the first week in March, and if the weather holds for a bit, the backfill portion of the grade beam will be completed by month's end.

If you have not taken a look at the project recently, please do as the project is steadily turning into a new, very attractive neighborhood.

#### Hopeful homeowners

Augustana hosted Habitat for Humanity for the Augustana Homes information kickoff on February 26. There were over 60 people at the presentation of the full vetting process for prospective homeowners for the eight units that will soon be available.

It was exciting to see such a high level of interest for the new homes!

**Craig Tamminga**  
Facility Manager

5000 E. Alameda Ave.  
Denver, CO 80246



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- 1 Daniel Nimrod
- 2 Jim Apple
- 5 Joe Lewis  
Robert Reinert  
Ginny Kusek
- 6 Robert Brown
- 7 Berit Backes  
Izzi Howard
- 8 Kera Terwilliger  
Robert Miller
- 9 Millie Motes
- 10 Brenda Bucklin  
Erin Willams-Vohs  
Michael Graham
- 11 AJ Atherton  
Makyla Moody

- 12 Erin Brown  
Liv Triplett
- 13 Alex Kah  
Beth Marston
- 15 Grant Lutz  
James Mudge  
Krista Walker  
Kristin Hagebak  
Maria Brotherston
- 16 Ellen Cox  
Vale Triplett
- 18 Douglas Wittich  
Karen Edeen
- 19 Ashley Ezpeleta  
Koda Uyemura  
Lesley Smith  
Reina VanderWel

- 20 Alex Tripp  
Phyllis Ashliman
- 22 Betty Nyby  
Christopher Carter
- 23 Max Ourada
- 24 Cassandra Carter  
James Vaughters  
Margery Sumberg
- 25 Randall Holmberg
- 27 Julie Reusser  
Wayne Olson
- 28 Brian Willoughby  
William Crossen
- 29 Janet Philipp
- 30 Dick Larson  
Malakai Cooper

*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
		<b>1</b> 10am 60+ Ministry 10am Lenten Coffee Talk Art-Making Session	<b>2</b> 7am–7pm Spiritual Practices Stations 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 6:15pm Midweek Lenten Worship Chancel Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9am Lenten Chapel Prayer 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	<b>5</b> 8am Altar Guild 11am Memorial Service: Harvey Crow
	<b>6</b> Fifth Sunday in Lent 8am Worship/Communion 9am Health Ministry Coffee Hour 9am Palm Sunday Rehearsal 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Communion Class Noon Augustana Knitters Noon Art-Making Session <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry below</i>	<b>7</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Welcome Connection	<b>8</b> 10am 60+ Ministry 10am Lenten Coffee Talk 6pm Art-Making Session Children, Youth & Family Ministry Committee	<b>9</b> 7am–7pm Spiritual Practices Stations 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:15am Augustana Singers 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 6:15pm Midweek Lenten Worship Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 19am Sarah Circle 2pm 60+ Ministry 7pm Women, Wine and Word	<b>11</b> 9am Lenten Chapel Prayer 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 10am Property Committee 11am Bulletin Assembly
<b>13</b> Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday 8am Worship/Communion 9am Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:15am Health Ministry 10:30am Worship/Communion Noon Executive Council Noon Augustana Instrumental Ensemble Noon Art-Making Session <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry below</i>	<b>14</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Welcome 150 Steering Committee	<b>15</b> 10am Art-Making Session 4:30pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Augustana Foundation	<b>16</b> 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:15am Augustana Singers 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> Maundy Thursday The Tower deadline 11:15am Augustana Singers Noon Worship/Communion 7pm Worship/Communion	<b>18</b> Good Friday 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers Noon Worship 1pm Bulletin Assembly 7pm Worship	<b>19</b> 8am Altar Guild 10am PEAK Support Group 9:30am Rehearsal: Easter Brass
<b>20</b> Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day 7am First Light of Easter Worship/Communion 9am Worship/Communion 10:30am Easter Egg Hunt 11am Worship/Communion	<b>21</b> 9:45am - office closed - Augustana Firm Believers 1pm Book Group	<b>22</b> 7pm Congregation Council 7pm Rachel Circle	<b>23</b> 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 11am Bulletin Assembly	<b>26</b> 8am Altar Guild 11am Memorial Service: Randy O'Malley
<b>27</b> Second Sunday of Easter 8am Worship/Communion 9am Property Committee Workday 9am Chancel Choir 9:15am E4 Mental Health 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:45am Sunday Lunch Noon Augustana Foundation Noon Finance/Investment Noon Augustana Instrumental Ensemble <i>See Faith Formation and Music Ministry right</i>	<b>28</b> 7:30am Footcare Clinic 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers	<b>29</b> 1pm The Tower Assembly 7pm Augustana Foundation Development/Communications	<b>30</b> 9am Augustana Early Learning Center Chapel 9:45am Augustana Firm Believers 6pm Augustana Ringers 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<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>		





## Spring 2025 Update

### The Welcome 150 Mission Statement

In celebration of Augustana's 150th anniversary of founding, Welcome 150 is deepening our relationships with God and each other, fostering new relationships in the wider community, and renewing our facilities to be welcoming and enduring.

## CAMPAIGN PRIORITY PROGRESS & GOALS

### We have surpassed our initial goal of \$5,000,000!

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the Augustana community, **we have topped \$5 million**, which is reason to celebrate! This will enable us to begin the preliminary planning work for our renovations! The Welcome 150 Workgroup did thorough planning to determine what projects needed to be funded, a rough estimate of pricing, and their priority. But the priorities and plans may change based upon syncing of similar projects and maximizing available funds. Augustana is fortunate to have exceptional expertise among its members to oversee this process!

#### PRIORITY ONE: \$5 MILLION GOAL



**\$5,000,000**

- Accessibility
- Energy Efficiency
- Sanctuary Renewal
- Organ Refurbishment
- Air Conditioning Chiller
- ADA All Gender Restrooms

#### PRIORITY TWO: \$2 MILLION GOAL



**\$168,200**

- Fellowship Hall Renewal
- Energy Efficiency
- New Outdoor Signage
- Meeting Space Renewal

#### PRIORITY THREE: \$1.5 MILLION GOAL



**\$0**

- Expand Narthex into West Portico
- Meeting Space Renewal
- Energy Efficiency

## GRATEFUL FOR AUGUSTANA'S GENEROSITY!

### \$5 million!

Does everyone realize what an astonishing number that is? Even our fundraising consultants are gobsmacked that this goal was accomplished in such a brief period of time. They tell us that Augustana is an anomaly of generosity compared to most other similar settings!

It was our Steering Team that boldly said, "Not only are we going to set our Priority 1 goal for **\$5,000,000**, but also we are going to move the final goalpost all the way to **\$8,500,000**!"

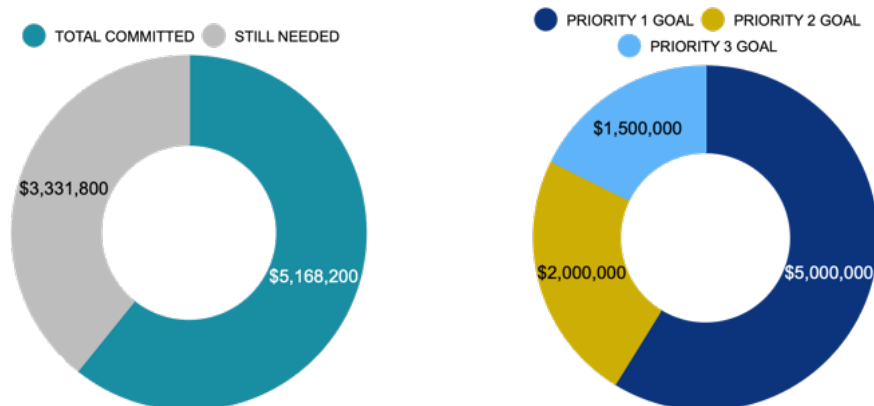
All to say a huge THANK YOU for such generosity! And, the campaign isn't over!

### What happens next?

Below is the anticipated timeline of what takes place throughout 2025 and 2026:

- **SPRING/SUMMER 2025:** Projects outside the scope of the design firm are completed, such as installation of the AC chiller
- **SUMMER 2025:** Designs/plans completed by Eidos Architects, our design firm
- **FALL 2025:** Construction services company procured
- **2026:** Pre-construction planning & logistics
- **FALL 2026:** City of Denver permitting

## OVERALL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS: GOAL OF \$8.5 MILLION



### HOW MUCH HAS BEEN RECEIVED?

Actual receipts are **\$2,456,300** as of mid March (48% of commitments). Those funds are professional managed and are generating interest income.

## WE'RE BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

### How was a design team selected?

A team of Augustana members with backgrounds in architecture, engineering, and interior design engaged in a diligent process to select a design firm that will carry our Welcome 150 building projects forward. The team was comprised of Paul Blanchard, Beth Finke, Greg Hempelman, David Robb, Erin Saboe, and Craig Tamminga.

The team communicated with local design firms and put out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications). Of the five firms that responded, four were selected to submit more detailed proposals. Through interviews and documentation, the team scored each firm based upon these criteria:

- **Ability to perform the work required for the full scope of the project**
- **Sensitivity to sacred design and appropriate architectural style**
- **Project understanding**
- **Ability to meet our timeline and budget**
- **Past performance for other clients**

The team unanimously selected **Eidos Architects**, a local design firm based in Greenwood Village. The Congregation Council has approved the selection so that, once a contract is in place, the initial steps of the design work may commence.

Eidos has particular expertise in church architecture and recently completed a renewal project of similar size at Risen Christ Catholic Church on South Monaco. They have the passion and capability for maintaining the original design of Augustana and updating it for modern-day practices.

Additional details about the process to complete the design will be shared in the coming weeks and months.

We are grateful for the professional skill and competence of the selection team. They worked faithfully and diligently on this next step of our Welcome 150 vision for a renewed Augustana!



### Easter Art Project is underway!

Welcome 150 is much more than a capital campaign; it is a vision for a renewed ministry and commitment to our mission!

Our Welcome 150 Art Project has already resulted in building relationships and connections in our community. Long-time members are creating art together, side-by-side with those who are new. We're learning names and sharing stories.

One new member told the story of how her family came to Augustana, and they were going to take a little time before getting too involved. But there were so many great opportunities to live out their faith and connect with others, they were excited to become passionate participants right away. The art project was especially appreciated as a way to meet others and be a part of making something artful and beautiful.

Opportunities to be a part of our Welcome 150 Art Project continue through March and into April.