



# Augustana Lutheran Church

## Good Newscaster - July 2020

The mission of Augustana Lutheran Church is to witness to the Good News of God in Jesus Christ as a multicultural and multinational congregation of justice-seekers and peacemakers who welcome and affirm every person. Sanctuary Congregation since 1996

**Augustana  
Lutheran Church**  
*Serving Portland and the  
World to the Glory of  
God since 1906*

**We Invite You to Sunday Livestream Worship at [www.augustana.org](http://www.augustana.org)**  
**†10:00 am English      11:30 am Spanish**

*28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Matthew 11:28-30

Greetings to all as we move into the summer months of July and August in the midst of one of the most amazing moments in the history of most of us as we see the rising up of millions to confront the 400-plus-year pandemic of White Supremacy and Racism, and the over-four-month-to-date pandemic named Covid 19 that has taken, at the time of this writing, 516,385 lives in our global village; 126,739 lives in the United States. We mourn all of these losses because each is an individual life with a family.

Jesus reminds us to come to him all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and he will give us rest. The murder of George Floyd and so many others whose stories were not told struck to the core of our shared humanity and the burden of hate. The virus that has kept our children home from school and so many elders at home while others of all ages have struggled to make it has been a collective burden.

Jesus reminds us to come to him and he will give us rest, and we know many of you need this emotionally while at the same time needing the play and relationships that bring life. Jesus reminds us that when we come to him he will help us find that common spirit to do his will in ways that are not weighing us down but lifting us up, as we work together for a new day in this nation and world and for the common good of all, claiming when Black Lives Matter then so too will all lives.

The challenge of overcoming systemic racism, police reform and health care for all have been a part of Augustana's mission for many years. We as a congregation have cheered for the Supreme Court rulings on LGBTQ equal rights in the workplace and the DACA ruling granting reprieve to so many, as well as the recent Federal Court rulings calling for freeing all immigrant children imprisoned along the border by a draconian administration, and the Colorado Court's ruling that a ban on large capacity magazines is constitutional.

In the past four months we have embarked on what we are calling the Augustana 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative taking us places we only dreamed of just a few months ago. Everything we have done as a congregation to reinvent ourselves in this present moment will serve the ministry of Christ's church well over the next decade. Our worship leaders and musicians in concert with our new incredible tech and sound teams have provided 15 consecutive Sundays of Livestream Worship Services in English and Spanish to keep us connected in worship, and average worship attendance is running at record levels even as your offerings have kept Augustana in good financial condition as we are the church in these times.

The Helping Hands team of 20, the Congregational Calling Team of 18, the Zoom Sunday School, Confirmation, the Social Media Team, and Zoom Coffee Hour are all new and the High School Lift Every Voice Oregon Summer Youth Academy to end gun violence was a first. We hosted the Albina Ministerial Alliance Zoom Press Conference from our Sanctuary with some 50 faith leaders, 40 of whom were African American pastors, as we addressed racism and police reform and peaceful and powerful protests.

Many of our existing groups have held meetings by Zoom including joint meetings of the Church Council and Foundation; weekly staff meetings; our incredible Musicians have been a part of special concerts; the Monday Women's Prayer Group; the Men's Pub Theology; the Naughty Needlers; the Choirs; the Book Club and others. A weekly Zoom meeting list has been published every week and all are invited to join in. Pastoral care continues, however, in a very different shape and we are looking at a Zoom New Members class as well as a weekly forum on overcoming systemic racism in all institutions.

As a member of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform Steering Committee, we met with the Mayor, Police Chief, Department of Justice and the Mental Health Association and their staff teams back in March and will meet again this month. Our Oregon Synod is having weekly Zoom calls and the ELCA, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Sanctuary Networks are providing some excellent resources.

In the midst of this our Property Team is doing amazing work for that day when we all return, new bronze lettering has gone up on the 15<sup>th</sup> street side of the church, the staff team is healthy and working well, as members and friends of Augustana you are doing the ministry of your daily lives while wearing masks and modeling good public health practices for the sake of all, and we are moving into God's future of promise together. Rest and renew. Jesus has work for us to do together as we move forward in Faith, Hope and Love knowing the best is yet to come.

Christ's peace and joy,

**Livestream Worship each Sunday at [www.augustana.org](http://www.augustana.org)  
10:00 a.m. English      11:30 a.m. Spanish**

**Sunday, July 5      Pentecost 5**  
Zech 9:9-12; Ps 145:8-14; Rom 7:15-25a; Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

**Sunday, July 12      Pentecost 6**  
Isa 55:10-13; Ps 65:[1-8] 9-13; Rom 8:1-11; Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

**Sunday, July 19      Pentecost 7**  
Isa 44:6-8; Ps 86:11-17; Rom 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

**Sunday, July 26      Pentecost 8**  
1 Kings 3:5-12; Ps 119:129-136; Rom 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-33, 44-52

**Many thanks to our (rotating) Livestream Team Members including** Ben Joy, Jon Jensen, Dave Schmidt, Francisco Aguirre, Ken Petersen, Andrew Kindschuh, Lane Johnson, Mark Wells, Nate Fort, Joe Paterno, Andy Fort, Brandon Knutson (remote), Ayn Frazee (remote), Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt (remote), Tamrah Knutson (remote)

**We pray for:**  
Francisco Aguirre, Dora Reyna & family  
Roseta Akin  
Linda Sumner's friend Bella, chemo  
Colleen and Jerry Benson (Jerry recovering from a fall)  
Chris Bergerson  
Sue Best  
Beth and Bob Boyce (recent/upcoming surgeries)  
Alison Emblar Brown  
Allen Brown, Jr.  
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt  
Lou Carman  
Andrea Cedfeldt  
Bill Cedfeldt (Paul's father)  
Kirky Doble  
Kathy Drozd  
We lift up and pray for Sherry and Steve Eckles searching for their son, Ian  
Keith Erdmann  
Paul Fox  
Delores Franklin (Tamrah's aunt)  
Pat Gebhardt  
Deaunka Geiger  
Norene Goplen  
Brian Gregory  
Ted and Toni Hagenbucher  
Karen Hansen, residents/staff of her facility  
Kelsey Hansen  
Nikki Hayes' mother Eleanor  
Mahsa Heidari  
Leah Higgins  
Mark Hoffman's brother Cary  
Ed Hope  
Marcie Jinings  
Eddie Johnson

Kristen Johnson  
Tamrah Knutson's mother Gladine Reynolds  
April Lane  
Anthony Lathan, cancer surgery  
Chris and Annabel Pacheco Marquez  
Jean McKenzie (Tamrah's aunt)  
Peter Minus  
Nicole Mongrain surgery July 2  
Ann Nelson  
Joyce Olson  
Chris Powers (friend of Lisa Wenzlick)  
D'Norgia Price  
Stuart Reitz (Wayne's father) congestive heart failure  
Gary Rosenthal  
Bill Rutz  
Marilyn Schmidt, Myrna Sheie's sister  
Fred Scholtz  
Virginia Segletes, Jennifer Fort's mother  
Jerrime Shelton  
Erin Spadelli  
Mary Jo Swalwell (Kevin Smith's mother)  
Lynn Thompson  
Armando Vasquez  
Rev. Don Voeks  
Courtney and Trinity Walker (Ron and Sally Beck's daughter and granddaughter)  
Robert Wallace  
Luci Wells  
Miles Wilson

We pray for the physical and emotional safety of children in our communities - and especially for children in foster care or other out-of-home placements.

We pray for the health, wellness, and compassion of adults [parents/guardians/relatives] caring for and coaching children through these uncertain times - help us all do our best to make this world a better and safer place for children to grow and flourish.

We pray for present and past members of the Open Circle community at Augustana.

We pray for the elders and families of indigenous and tribal communities - here in this local region, throughout the Pacific Northwest, and across Turtle Island - as they have continued to be hard hit with Covid-19 and other illnesses.

We pray for the preservation of and equity in access to clean, safe water - for all.

We pray for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Girls/people . . . and their families who are still searching or waiting for justice or closure.

We pray for the strength, endurance, and unity of everyone rising up to eliminate systemic racism and social inequities in their communities.

We pray for all those affected by the virus throughout the world.

**Youth and Family Ministry News:** I want to thank all of the teachers and staff who worked with the Sunday School and Confirmation programs this year. They are: Kathy Jones, Joyce Minus, Heather McClelland, Todd Gienapp, Eric Stiefvater, Anna Stiefvater, Edward Running, Rebecca Dodson, Walt Spafford, Andy Fort, Jennifer Fort, Mike Lauruhn, Bill Rauchholz. We stopped in-person classes in March due to the Coronavirus, and the 4-5-6 Grade class continued on through June via Zoom virtual meetings. I am very grateful for the teachers who went

the extra mile to get their classes together and continue their studies. The Confirmation program also continued with Zoom meetings. We are not yet sure when we can meet together, but are still planning on having Confirmation in the Fall; whether that will be in person or virtual is still unsure. It has definitely been challenging for all of us, but I am encouraged by the spirit at work at Augustana to keep teaching and empowering our children with God's word and love.

Gratefully, Rebecca

**The High School Youth Group / LEVO Academy:** The first of its kind Lift Every Voice Youth Leadership Academy to End Gun Violence held by Zoom Monday June 22-Friday June 26 was a tremendous success. Coordinated by Augustana Grant High School Junior-to-be Ben I., it involved 125 participants from 14 states from the East Coast to the West. The lead-off speaker on the 1<sup>st</sup> day was Civil Rights icon Dr. Bernard Lafayette who came on from his living room with his wife of 50 years from Tuskegee, Alabama spending over an hour.

**Lift Every Voice Oregon located at Augustana** which had IP 60 approved by the Oregon Supreme Court back in April but decided not to proceed with signature gathering for the sake of Public Health for all Oregonians, is moving forward with a ballot initiative for the November 1, 2022 General Election as well as preparing for the 2021 Legislature to see that important gun violence prevention legislation moves forward. The LEVO Youth Leadership Academy was an important step along the way as is the coordination of some 3000 volunteers around the state.

Augustana Family, the **Sound System Committee** is very pleased to announce that after 3+ years of research and collaboration, the new sound system nears completion. Specifically, a beautiful new console is now in the sanctuary. An Augustana pew was integrated into its construction and is aesthetically consistent with our sacred space. The console houses a new sound system mixer as well as a laptop computer to control video streaming. The Fellowship Hall and nursery are now equipped with an audio/ PA system. The wireless microphones and amplifiers have all been updated. We expect all work to be completed during the next month. **Many individuals** helped in this process including committee co-chair **Lane Johnson, Edward Running** - architectural consultation, **Ben Joy**-hearing assist equipment and video, **Greg Halverson**- pew changes, **Steve Loniewski**- electrical, **Marilyn Keller**-equipment suggestions and support, **David Schmidt**-video and wireless systems support, **Glen Jacobs**-lighting. Our vendors have been wonderful including: **Rick Gordon**-Sound Doctor, **Patrick Brewer**- Backline Recordings, and **Cameron Jackson**, cabinetmaker extraordinaire. Of course **Pastor Mark**, the **Augustana Foundation**, and **Church Council** have all been supportive during this entire process. We feel that these system changes and upgrades will serve us well for the coming decades. *Peace be with you all, Joe Paterino, Co-Chair, Sound System Committee*

**Property Updates: Lighting:** Luxium fronted us 18 lights in addition to 6 that we purchased with proceeds from the party. So now all the pendants have lights that can change color and we are using about one fifth of the electricity. We have more light in the altar area including behind the organ pipes. **Bell tower:** Since we installed Marty's pan to stop the leaks it was the perfect time to repair the water damage and paint. Ansel and I built a platform using two of the stage pieces we use for Summer in the City. This allowed us to reach the ceiling and the corners with our ladders. Greg Halverson re-mortared the dam-

**Marilyn Keller has been a part of some amazing Zoom Concerts and Dr. Walter Krueger is completing a special recording.**

**The Augustana Center for Systemic Change** is pleased to share that Familias en Accion is adding 5 more staff for a total of 14; the Library bond lead staff is officed at Augustana; Jobs with Justice moved their offices for 6 staff to Augustana on June 30; and the VIVA Inclusive Migrant Network is completing its first year. Of course all staff members of these partners are primarily working from home.

**Augustana Financial Picture** moving into July: Your faithfulness over the past four months has placed Augustana on a sound financial basis as we move forward. The response to the Challenge gifts of \$6,000 for the Pastor's Discretionary/Friend in Need Fund generated another \$10,000 in giving that puts the fund to assist households in need during this pandemic at the highest it has ever been.

aged corners, Ansel and I painted the ceiling and two walls white and one wall blue, and Steve Loniewski replaced the rusted light fixture at the top of the space. His company also ran cable for sound video and data both in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. Speaking of the fellowship hall, the chair racks have been cut in half, had new wheels added and new ends welded on. This will make them easier to use and to store. Property volunteers John and Kathy Allen Kirsch, Wayne Westfall and Su Hanset have kept the property looking great. *Glen Jacobs*



**The Augustana Helping Hands servant team** began organizing in March to assist Augustana members who need help with household tasks during the Covid quarantine and distancing regulations. So far over 20 members of the Augustana community have volunteered to do tasks such as dog walking, help with Zoom calls, grocery or pharmacy runs, phone calls, mask-making, and other tasks. Thank you to Helping Hands team members Lynn Thompson, Diane Davis, Marie Napolitano, Chris Marquez, Jenomi Montgomery, Noel Vargas, Elizabeth Morse, Trisha Wonderlick, Beth Boyce, Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu and daughter Julia, Deacon Sue Best, Susan Johnson, Lisa Murdoch, Kevin Smith, Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt and Jenny Schmidt for their willingness to help! If you need assistance with tasks or are interested in joining us, contact Michele Delaney [mdelaney@insigniahealth.com](mailto:mdelaney@insigniahealth.com)

**Sanctuary Arts Projects: 1) repurposing the pleated fabric (dossal curtain) behind the back altar.** We'll gather soon to divide the fabric into two pieces: one to hang behind the altar and the other for a new banner to hang left of the pulpit, to be used for the first time at Christmas. We hope to complete the renewed dossal curtain in July. **2) Paper cross banner:** Crosses cut from poster paper will be sent to

Augustana homes upon request; a photo of the sample cross, an invitation and instructions are posted on our website. Those interested will receive a blank cross, instructions, and a return envelope. Elaine will work her magic, add gold around each cross, and put it all together. **3) Summer /fall banner behind the back altar** to alternate with the white fabric hanging, the paper crosses, and the current banner during Pentecost, the long “green” season. We plan to use fabric already available, incorporating flowers and leaves. **4) New red parament for 8:30 lectern:** repurposed red linen fabric will be used for this. In addition to these projects, Gwen Corum will make a new tablecloth for the candle table, now using pillar candles made by Rich North from altar candle stubs (thank you, Gwen and Rich!) - *Myrna Sheie and Elaine Gammell*

- COVID-Safe Opportunities for Fellowship** All are invited to join these regular groups. A schedule with Zoom links is sent out every week. If you are not receiving emails and wish to, please contact [ministry@augustana.org](mailto:ministry@augustana.org) Hope to see you online!
- Women's Prayer Circle:** Every Monday, 9:30am for Bible Study and sharing of prayer requests.
- Tai Chi:** Every Tuesday, 10:00am & Thursday, 1:00pm for meditative movement.
- Men's Pub Theology:** 1st Tuesday, 7:00pm for fellowship and thoughtful discussion.
- Knotty Needlers:** 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10:00am for conversation and remote knitting.

**Book Group:** 3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm for fellowship and discussion of a chosen book.

**Sunday Coffee Hour:** Sundays at 11:15am for fellowship.

**The Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform** (Pastor Knutson is part of the Steering Committee that has a seat in the Federal Court) The AMA Steering Committee has met every month at Augustana for the past eight years, and the general meetings are the first Thursday at 5 p.m. at Maranatha Church on 12th and Skidmore. All are welcome to the general committee meetings.

**Legislative Advocacy:** Teams from Augustana continue to advocate around specific justice issues from Health Care for All to Gun Safety, Police Reform, Homelessness, Fair Wages and other key topics. Email the church if you would like to assist.

The ELCA Disaster Relief Fund responds quickly to events around the world. Special offerings can be made through Augustana with a check made out to the church and note area of need.

**Friend in Need:** Each year, Augustana gives thousands of dollars in direct aid to those who live on the streets or are on the edge. Gifts to this fund are always welcome.

**Augustana as a place of Sanctuary:** There is more information available about the cutting-edge work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on immigration reform by going to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). The Lutheran community has been a major mover on immigration for decades. If you would like to assist, call or email the church office. **Augustana is a Sanctuary Congregation** that recognizes we are on holy ground in the heart of the city. A place for all people. For more information on the New Sanctuary Movement, see the Augustana website.

**The Augustana Non-Profit Collaborative includes Irvington Cooperative Preschool; Familias en Accion; Jobs with Justice; Yes for Our Libraries; Open Circle Ministries; the Augustana New Sanctuary Institute; Society for Haitian Arts, Culture, & Social Support.**

**Augustana Lutheran Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Mark Knutson  
**Admin. Asst.:** Joyce Kindschuh  
**Gifts for Ministry:** Jenny Schmidt  
**Education Coord:** Rebecca Dodson

**2020 Augustana Church Council**

Ayn Frazee, <i>President</i>	Greg Halverson	Robert Trimble
Ken Petersen, <i>Treasurer</i>	LeAnne Jabs	Mark and Rebekah Witham
Pastor Mark Knutson	Elizabeth and Robert Morse	Susan and Ramona Nieman
Francisco Aguirre	Gabrielle Petersen	Todd Gienapp
Ejvin Berry/Jessi Khangura	D’Norgia Price	Wayne Reitz
Rose Christopherson	Laurie Richardson	Lisa Wenzlick

**Musicians**

**8:30 am Music Coordinators:** Maile Grumm, Jenny Schmidt, Joe Paterno, Andy Fort  
**8:30 am Band:** Maile Grumm, Jenny Schmidt, Mark Foat, Eric North, Joe & Janey Paterno, Barbara Passolt, Noah Fort, Steve Aguilu, Keri Haslebacher  
**Organist & Sanctuary Choir Director:** Dr. Walter Krueger  
**Pianist, Contemporary & Children’s Choir Director:** Andrew Fort  
**Sunday School music:** Andy Fort  
**Jazz Service:** Marilyn Keller, George Mitchell, Ron Steen, Kevin Deitz

**2020 Foundation Board**

Edward Running, <i>President</i>	Allen Brown, Jr.
Ansel Johnson, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nicole King
Linda Knudson	Ayn Frazee, <i>Council President</i>
	Pastor Mark Knutson

**Pastoral Associates**

Rev. David Brownmiller	Rev. Jake Jacobson	Deacon Sue Best
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt	Rev. Don Voeks	Deaconess Julia Brown
Rev. Patty Campbell-Schmitt	Rev. Sandy Walker	