



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

Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster - August 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

We Invite You to Sunday Livestream Worship at www.augustana.org

†10:00 am English

11:30 am Spanish

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, ²⁵ for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, ³¹ he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." *Matthew 14:22-33*

In the midst of the turmoil in the world today as we confront the pandemics of white supremacy, systemic racism and Covid-19, we join together declaring that Black Lives Matter and seek to change systems with non-violent protest and sea-changing public policy measures while washing our hands, wearing our masks, praying and caring for one another and being the church as engaged in ministry as ever while worshipping together Livestream and celebrating God's goodness each and every day.

All the new teams and projects were lifted up in last month's newscaster and in the body of this one. We give thanks for the Livestream Team and Worship leaders, for the Helping Hands and Calling Teams, for our Christian Ed, Youth and Prayer teams, our Care of Creation team and Church Council, our Foundation Board and Staff team, for the Property and Finance teams, and so much more. We know for many the economic and emotional challenges are hard and at times overwhelming, so again to any at Augustana who need assistance

both economically and spiritually do not hesitate to email us. We keep in our daily prayers all in the congregation and community who are serving in essential jobs for the sake of all, especially the most vulnerable. Your special gifts to the Friend in Need fund, Allen Temple CME Church (an historic Black Church in Portland) and to the varied ministries of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon have been life-giving. Your faithfulness in your weekly giving has been inspired. In this time we daily give thanks to God for each of you and your commitment and faithfulness to the work of Christ's church here at Augustana in partnership with so many, all to the Glory of God.

Jesus comes to us each and every day to raise us up and to relieve our fears and to bring peace in our hearts in the midst of today's great challenges. We are reminded in scripture and in human history that we are not the first generation to go through great struggles. In the past as in the present, God is a God of life and love, comfort and compassion, possibility and promise and it is truly in the love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and in the grace of God we put our trust. In Christian community we bear one another's burdens as we act with faith, hope and love for the common good.

Now for the 21st century efforts born in Cornerstone 1 and 11 at Augustana. On Saturday, August 8 at 9:00am as you all know we will have a Special Congregational Meeting to continue our journey towards Solar Power that we started in 2008. A full explanation can be found inside the Newscaster on page 2. The action we will vote on following a PowerPoint is:

"Shall Augustana Lutheran Church, through the affirmative vote of its members on August 8, 2020, move forward on the journey we envisioned in 2008, to install Solar Panels on the Education Building that will meet our complete electrical needs, by seeking available grants including the Pacific Power Blue Sky Grant for the majority of the funding while simultaneously crafting a fiscal plan to make appropriate roof and electrical repairs with the understanding that no work will begin on the project until all

† **Rev. Dr. W.J. Mark Knutson, Pastor** †

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fiscal and design plans are in place and approved at a subsequent congregational meeting for that purpose.”

If the pandemics have taught us anything, it is that proactive action at all levels is required for health and well being including that of the earth that we all depend on. Hope all can make it.

At the same time our worship leaders have been streaming beautifully thanks to the ongoing ministry of our Livestream team and there are more exciting developments in the works. The internal wiring is completed, the proper computers and cameras are being installed, and the spirit of the leadership for this is proactive, joyous, committed and strong. Once everything is in place we will dedicate the systems and recognize and thank all who have made this happen so many can worship from Augustana and around the world. Members of that team are mentioned in the worship section and our musicians on the last page.

Confirmation virtually is also now scheduled for September 27 and conversations are happening on how we engage fully in Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth Ministry in September now

that we know the rhythm of our schools. Our musicians are working on Summer in the City virtually on Sunday, August 30 and a special Organ Concert is being prepared for early September. Along with all the Zoom groups listed in this Newsletter we are looking at beginning a weekly series on Theology and the Public Church in September beginning with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, followed by Martin Luther King's six Principals for Non-Violent Direct Action and a session on Freedom Songs.

We hope this month all will find a way to renew and refresh safely, for the work of the church is as important as ever and through rest and reflection we can center ourselves to be the grace-filled hands and feet of Christ for the life of all.

God's blessings,



Pastor Mark

AUGUSTANA SOLAR ROOF PROJECT OVERVIEW **August 2020**

An important mission of Augustana is to be good stewards of God's Creation now and for generations to come. Our Care of Creation Team over the past several months has been working to realize the vision, begun by Augustana in 2008, to capture God's gift of abundant sunshine on our Education Building roof with a solar energy system that will provide all the electrical needs of both church buildings. The Augustana Solar Roof Project represents an important step on the journey to making our church's carbon-based energy usage net zero.

We also foresee that, as a result of this project, Augustana will become an educational hub for the community by teaching about renewable energy specifically, and about living in harmony with the Creation in general. We also can inspire and guide other faith communities far and wide who want to learn from our project.

The project is currently in the design phase, determining the scope of the work needed to realize our vision. The Education Building roof is now 21 years old, and needs to be replaced soon. We plan to have the roof work done at the same time as the installation of the solar racks and panels, and electrical upgrades are needed to accommodate the solar system. We are investigating other carbon-saving options including an Electrical Vehicle charging station and replacement of our two natural gas burning hot water heaters (for tap water) with high efficiency hybrid electric hot water heaters.

We have retained Neil Kelly Solar, based in NE Portland, as our solar partner for the design phase, and we have received bids for the installation work from two other solar companies, and one estimate so far for the roof work. Neil Kelly recommended that we apply for a Pacific Power Blue Sky* grant. We hired a professional grant writer to manage work on the Blue Sky application, which is due August 17th.

The Blue Sky grants are awarded annually in February. Dry weather is needed to install the roof, so the earliest work could begin is in late spring or early summer next year. The work will take a few weeks, so if all goes well, we could celebrate the Grand Opening in August 2021.

We project that the 38 KW solar system will cost \$85,000 plus an estimated \$15 K for electrical upgrades, \$100 K total. The Blue Sky grant (if awarded to us) plus Energy Trust of Oregon incentives would total \$65 K. Thus, the solar system would cost Augustana \$35 K and save the church approximately \$5 K per year on its electric bill. This means a payback period of seven years based on current power prices. The life of the solar panels is 25-30 years. The new roof is estimated at \$65 K, so for an Augustana investment of \$100 K, we can redo the roof, add a solar energy system, and upgrade our electrical system.

In conclusion, we believe that the Augustana Solar Roof Project is an excellent investment, from the financial, environmental, educational, and community benefit standpoints, while helping to fulfill our God-given mission to care for the Creation.

*The Blue Sky program encourages its Pacific Power customers to support the development of more renewable energy to our region by paying about one cent more per kilowatt hour each month.

-Robert Morse, Solar Project Chair

**Livestream Worship each Sunday at www.augustana.org
10:00 a.m. English 11:30 a.m. Spanish**

Sunday, August 2 Pentecost 9
Isaiah 55:1-5; Ps 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9 Pentecost 10
1 Kings 19:9-18; Ps 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16 Pentecost 11
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Ps 67; Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:[10-20]21-28

Sunday, August 23 Pentecost 12
Isaiah 51:1-6; Ps 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30 Pentecost 13
Jer 15:15-21; Ps 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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

We pray for:
We hold up in prayer the people of Lebanon following the devastating explosion in Beirut that has so drastically impacted all who live there. This came two days before the 75th Remembrance of the horrific nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. We have several families of Lebanese and Japanese heritage at Augustana. Let us respond with special offerings for disaster relief, with our prayers, and with a renewed commitment to rid the earth of nuclear weapons and deposits of dangerous chemicals.

Francisco Aguirre, Dora Reyna & family
Roseta Akin
Linda Sumner's friend Bella, undergoing chemo
Colleen and Jerry Benson
Chris Bergerson
Deacon Sue Best
Beth and Bob Boyce
Ron Brown
Alison Embler-Brown
Allen Brown, Jr.
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt
Lou Carman
Andrea Cedfeldt
Bill Cedfeldt, Paul's father
Kirky Doblle
Rebecca Dodson
Kathy Drozd
We lift up and pray for Sherry and Steve Eckles as they search for their son, Ian

Keith Erdmann
Paul Fox
Delores Franklin (Tamrah Knutson's aunt)
Pat Gebhardt
Deaunka Geiger
Norene Goplen
Brian Gregory
Michelle Greyfox
Philip Greyfox
Ted and Toni Hagenbucher
Karen Hansen
Kelsey Hansen
Nikki Hayes' mother Eleanor
Mahsa Heidari
Leah Higgins
Mark Hoffman's brother Cary
Ed Hope
Marcie Jinings
Eddie Johnson
Kristen Johnson
Tony Keller, Marilyn's brother
Tamrah Knutson's mother,
Gladine Reynolds
April Lane
Anthony Lathan
Nora Love
Chris and Annabel Pacheco
Marquez
Scott Mattox
Jean McKenzie (Tamrah's aunt)
Peter Minus
Nicole Mongrain
Ann Nelson
Linda Nelson, shoulder PT
Joyce Olson
Chris Powers (friend of Lisa Wenzlick)
D'Norgia Price
Laura Ramirez, chemotherapy

Gary Rosenthal
Bill Rutz
Jenny Schmidt
Marilyn Schmidt, Myrna Sheie's sister
Fred Scholtz
Virginia Segletes, Jennifer Fort's mother
Jerrime Shelton
Erin Spadelli
Barry Sutton
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 all who are homeless; for our city, county, state and national elected leaders for courage, discernment, vision and action born of justice.

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

We pray for the health, wellness and compassion of 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 continue 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 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 the healing of the wider church body, that it may grow in compassion for the most vulnerable members of all communities.

Sunday School News: We were all disappointed to miss Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwood this July as it was closed due to Covid-19. I hope that every family is having a good summer, getting out into nature and staying healthy. We are most likely not having in-person church or Sunday School as we start up in the fall. I am working to try to find virtual alternatives for Christian Education. Any ideas you have are welcome. Love, Rebecca

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.

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 August: Your faithfulness over the past five months has placed Augustana on a sound financial basis as we move forward. **Our current challenge** is to match \$2500, creating \$5000 to be divided between Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and Allen Temple CME church, led by Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes. We are also continuing to collect funds for Northeast Emergency Food Program.

Property Updates: Bell tower: We've received a Thrivent grant towards re-carpeting the bell tower stairway. The property committee continues to trim shrubs and weed and beautify the grounds. We have had two bring-your-own-breakfast work parties, July 28 and August 1. Property volunteers John and Kathy Allen Kirsch, Wayne Westfall and Su Hanset have kept the property looking great. *Glen Jacobs*



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 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 Contemporary Choir continues to meet via Zoom for the summer. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 27; we will check in socially and discuss safe options for moving ahead in the coming year.

The 11 o'clock choir, also known as "Sanctuary Choir," continues to meet on Thursdays at choir time, 7:30p. All with correct social distancing -- we meet virtually from home via the Zoom platform. It is a time for sharing how we are doing and tell stories. We are told this helps break the isolation for many folks. I must admit I learn a lot from our singers. We also have

two musical projects afoot. One is a virtual choir piece, in which we record our voices in isolation and then they are assembled electronically. The other is a simple three-part piece that we can partially rehearse on the Zoom platform. We hope for a day when we can all be back together. *Dr. Walter Krueger*

Sound System: The new sound system nears completion. A beautiful new console fashioned from an Augustana pew is in place in the sanctuary. The console houses a new sound system mixer and laptop computer to control video streaming. The Fellowship Hall and nursery are equipped with an audio/ PA system. The wireless microphones and amplifiers have all been updated. We expect everything to be completed soon. **Many thanks to** 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 Paterno, Co-Chair, Sound System Committee*

The Augustana Helping Hands servant team organized in March to assist Augustana members needing help with household tasks during the Covid quarantine and distancing regulations. Over 20 members of the Augustana community volunteer to help with dog walking, Zoom calls, grocery or pharmacy runs, phone calls, mask-making, etc. Thank you to Helping Hands team members Lynn Thompson, Diane Davis, Marie Napolitano, Chris Marquez, Jenomi Montgomery, Noel Vargas, Elizabeth Morse, Trish 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 want to help, contact Michele Delaney mdelaney@insigniahealth.com

Sanctuary Arts Projects: **1) Paper cross banner:** Crosses decorated by Augustana families were assembled into an altar backdrop; **2) 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. **3) 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*

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 immigra-

tion reform by going to 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; VIVA Inclusive Migrant Network; 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	