



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

Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster - October 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

³¹ Then Jesus said to the people who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:31-36

If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. These words of Jesus to the early believers are words that are transformative for us today. They are part of the appointed Gospel reading for Reformation Sunday on October 25 which then takes us to All Saints Sunday on November 1. What a powerful lead up to the election on Tuesday, November 3 when everyone needs to vote. Who one votes for is up to one's conscience, but to vote is our collective responsibility in this democracy that we all cherish.

Jesus' words to those early believers causes them to say they have always been free, but that was not true. They were descendants of Abraham and Sarah and of their ancestors who had been slaves in Egypt before God led them through Moses on the journey to the Promised Land. Yet they seem to have forgotten their own history.

Remembering our history is important as we move through these very challenging and trying times as members of the human family. History of struggles, history of new beginnings, history of so many institutions built on systemic racism and white supremacy, history of marches and legislation for human rights, women's rights, civil rights, immigrant rights, children's rights, worker's rights as today we march in the Black Lives Matter movement calling for real change for equity and justice. We do this together out of

the deep moral well of strength born of faith as we respond to God's call to strive for the common good.

This month we will continue to mourn with those who have lost family members to Covid-19, and lift up in prayer all who suffer from it. We will remember all facing economic hardship and lift up all children, youth and families who are navigating the best they can through this pandemic. We will lift up all who are in essential jobs in our society, who are serving so nobly and bravely. We will lift up the poor and the vulnerable and those on the margins.

We will also remember those who have gone before us, truly making a difference for the well-being of others, like Jerry (Colleen) Benson who served Christ's church so powerfully. We will especially lift up as Christ's church the love of God we have experienced in Jesus Christ. A love that frees us to live and to serve and to generously give of ourselves, remembering all that Jesus has done for us.

Yes, this Reformation Sunday and throughout the month of October we will continue to worship with record numbers due to our livestream capability which literally has tripled our attendance and brought others to worship with us from far away places (see the article by Ben Joy in this issue). As the printing press was for Martin Luther and the Reformation, as television was for Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement, so too the capability to livestream and utilize social media is for the church today as we share the good news of God's love for all people in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the true freedom that this brings us.

Christ's peace and joy,

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

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On Friday, March 13, Sunday services in our Sanctuary were cancelled due to the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic. Worship materials were sent out to all Augustana households via email by Joyce Kindschuh, so that Sunday worship might take place in our homes. Four people joined Pastor Knutson on the steps of the church at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning, with masks on and social distancing, for prayers. Later that morning a television crew came to the church for an interview and video of an empty church. At that moment conversations began about livestreaming future services that went into the evening. By 6:30 a.m. Monday morning an

email was being sent by Pastor Knutson to staff to that effect. By 9:00 a.m. that Monday, Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt sent out an email suggesting this as well, with important information. Our musicians and worship leaders have done an amazing job these past six months, and we even added a Spanish language service on Easter Sunday. This would not have been possible without the wonderful work of our Livestream Team that formed the week of March 15 and has set us up to livestream for many years to come. What follows is an article from Livestream Team lead Ben Joy, who did a fantastic job leading the way on this, that shows just how far we've come.

Livestream Team Report: On Monday, March 16, 2020, Augustana Pastoral Associate Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt sent an email which further put “live streaming” in motion. Tom suggested we should start to live stream our Sunday services. His email included research he had already done regarding other churches which had already made this pivot. Over the next few days, a broader email thread grew on what live streaming meant to Augustana. What would we need for equipment, web services and people to create our own production? Additionally, should the live stream be a polished post production video like a TV show or an authentic church service with a more casual tone.

Our first live stream took place on March 22, 2020. The stream was simply an iPhone in portrait mode on a small tripod using cellular data. For March 29th, we attempted to use a laptop with a camcorder and digital adapter. The system worked great in my home, but would not connect at Augustana unless we used really low resolution. Our lesson learned was live streaming requires lots of internet bandwidth and our 15-year-old internet was well below current standards. We upgraded services to a new provider with over 10x more bandwidth and we cut our costs by 50% (if we upgraded with the existing provider).

The sound upgrade was two years in the making, by our Sound Team led by Joe Paterno and Lane Johnson. By Palm Sunday, we had good internet, one camera and audio from the existing sound board. Over the next several months, the new sound board was installed. This has vastly improved sound quality. We have purchased and returned multiple computers and added a second camera. Most everything done up to this point has been via donations. Think about what we have done – Continued services during pandemic at not much extra cost as lower phone/internet costs have helped to offset the new costs incurred. Amazing.

Over the last six months we have learned more than expected about this new technology. It seems if a problem was going to appear, it would do so at 9:55am on Sunday. The technology team feels confident we have finally reached a solid plateau and can broadcast weekly services without major technology challenges.

However, we are about to improve our livestreaming of worship substantially. We are about to integrate three new motorized cameras! These cameras will be installed permanently and be controlled via an iPad from anywhere in the sanctuary. With our new soundboard and digital cameras, Augustana is moving into the future with infrastructure to stream events worldwide. **-Ben Joy**



(Image 1) Laptop, one camcorder, internet cable and audio cable to the old sound board



(Image 2) New sound board with cables to dual cameras



(Image 3) New cameras will be motorized and installed near the balcony with left, right and center camera angles.



(Image 4) Each camera is motorized on three axis and has a lens that allows installation at the balcony, while being able to zoom in on the upper altar. Perfect for when we can return to in-person services.

Livestream/Tech Crew (rotating): Ben Joy, Dave Schmidt, Jenny Schmidt, Lane Johnson, Andy Fort, Jon Jensen, Francisco Aguirre, Marilyn Keller, Glen Jacobs, Terri Svetich, Ken Petersen, Andrew Kindschuh, Mark Wells, Nate Fort, Joe Paterno, Brandon Knutson (remote), Ayn Frazee (remote), Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt (remote), Tamrah Knutson (remote), Rick Gordon (advisor); Rebecca Dodson (webpage); Mark Knutson (advisor)

Residential Solar Forum Scheduled: The Creation Care Team has scheduled a one-hour forum to discuss home solar energy systems on **Saturday, October 10th at 10:30 am.** Robert and Elizabeth Morse, and others who have solar energy, will offer their experience and perspectives. Tyler Dotten of Neil Kelly Solar, the company that is working on the Augustana Solar Project, will speak about what his company offers, and he will be available to answer questions. The Zoom meeting link for the forum will be sent in an upcoming Augustana Zoom meetings email. If you are considering solar for your home or are interested in learning more about it, please join us!

Augustana Solar Project Team Updates: Two grant proposals were submitted in August. For the Pacific Power Blue Sky grant we requested \$54K to fund a rooftop solar system, including 96 solar panels on the Education Building roof.

Awards will be announced in February 2021. For the Pacific Power Electric Mobility grant we requested \$110K for the installation of two EV charging stations in our parking lot near 14th Avenue and a lighting system to make them safer to use after dark. We also requested an all-electric KIA Niro SUV to be used by Augustana and its non-profit partners. The E-Mobility grant is scheduled to be awarded in October. The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) grant application materials were published on September 16th for their initial round of funding. This program was approved by Portland voters in a ballot initiative in 2018, which involved many Augustana members in signature-gathering. The Solar Project Team will examine the application materials to determine the extent to which our solar energy project meets the criteria for PCEF funding. The application deadline is November 16th, and awards are to be announced in February 2021. -Robert Morse, Care of Creation Team Chair

Fall Generosity: The congregation has been very faithful in your giving and now we are entering the last quarter of the year which is very important as we seek to end the year strong. Please keep the work of Christ's church central in your regular giving.

Special giving during Covid-19 has funded the Pastor's Friend in Need Fund to over \$20,000; \$2500 for Allen Temple CME/ Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, to be matched by the Foundation; over \$10,000 for Oregon wildfire disaster relief.

We pray for:

The family of Linda Kicking-Woman Huddleston, her husband Philip and 14 children; her memorial service was Sept. 10;
The family of Nora Love upon her death in early September;
The family of Darlene Benner upon her death Sept. 17; her memorial service was Sept. 30;
Lisa, Caleb and Gillian Switalla and the extended family upon the death of Lisa's father this week.

We give thanks for their lives and the new life that is theirs in Christ.

We pray for all who have lost loved ones, communities that have been destroyed and the many people displaced from their homes in Oregon and the west coast in the midst of historic wild fires. We pray for all firefighters and their families.

Francisco Aguirre, Dora Reyna & family
 Roseta Akin
 Kristie Allen, breast cancer tx
 Bella, Linda Sumner's friend
 Jessica, Linda Sumner's niece
 Colleen Benson
 Chris Bergerson
 Deacon Sue Best
 Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel
 Beth Boyce

Ron Brown
 Alison Emblar-Brown
 Allen Brown, Jr.
 Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt
 Lou Carman
 Patty Cooper, Laurie Richardson's cousin, home lost in fire
 Kirky Doble
 Rebecca Dodson
 Kathy Drozd
 Keith Erdmann
 Paul Fox
 Dolores 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
 Lloyd and Connie Johnson
 Susan Johnson, shoulder surgery
 Kathy Jones
 Tony Keller, Marilyn's brother
 Tamrah Knutson's mother,
 Gladine Reynolds
 April Lane

Anthony Lathan
 Chris and Annabel Pacheco
 Marquez
 Scott Mattox
 Jean McKenzie, Tamrah's aunt
 Peter Minus
 Nicole Mongrain
 Ann Nelson
 Linda Nelson, shoulder PT
 Susan Nieman mobilized to help fight Covid-19
 Joyce Olson
 Chris Powers, friend of Lisa Wenzlick
 D'Norgia Price
 Laura Ramirez, chemotherapy
 Gary Rosenthal
 Andrew Schmidt
 Christina Schmidt
 Jenny Schmidt
 Fred Scholtz
 Virginia Segletes, Jennifer Fort's mother
 Jerrime Shelton
 Erin Spadelli
 Barry Sutton
 Mary Jo Swalwell, Kevin Smith's mother
 Brent Swanson
 Lynn Thompson
 Armando Vasquez
 Rev. Don Voeks
 Courtney and Trinity Walker
 Luci Wells
 Miles Wilson

All who are houseless; for our city, county, state and national elected leaders for courage, discernment, vision and action born of justice.

The physical and emotional safety and health of children and their caregivers in our communities, especially children in foster care or other out-of-home placements.

Present and past members of the Open Circle community at Augustana.

Elders and families of indigenous and tribal communities 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.

The preservation of and equity in access to clean, safe water for all.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, people, and their families still searching or waiting for justice or closure.

Strength, endurance, and unity of everyone rising up to eliminate systemic racism and social inequities in their communities.

Healing of the wider church body, that it may grow in compassion for the most vulnerable members of all communities.

All those affected by the virus throughout the world.

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

Sunday, October 4 18th Sunday of Pentecost
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11 19th Sunday of Pentecost
Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18 20th Sunday of Pentecost
Isaiah 45:1-7; Ps 96:1-9[10-13]; 1 Thess 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25 Reformation Sunday
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

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

Open Circle, under the leadership of Andrea Robideau, has been working hard to seek out and serve the most vulnerable. Please keep all in your prayers.

Augustana Youth News

Congratulations to the seven young people who were confirmed on Sept 27, 2020: **Caroline Marie Rauchholz, Katelyn Nicole Haslebacher, Ethan George Burger, Aidan Thomas Burger, Linnea Maeve Smith, Lola Jeane Conner, and Jack Henry Iboshi.** It was the first virtual confirmation in Augustana's 114-year history, and it was well received by all. A big thank you to Walt Spafford for being my teaching partner for the past years. Thanks to all at Augustana who have watched our young people grow from babies to high schoolers, and who have supported them all the way. It was very apparent from our young people that they feel God's love shown them by all of the Augustana Community. It was also wonderful to know that many of their friends and family were able to join via the Livestream from all over the county. These seven are now full members of Augustana, with the right to attend meetings and vote! Very best wishes and prayers for each of them as they continue on their faith journey.

-Rebecca Dodson, Christian Education Coordinator

The Augustana High School Youth Group will be welcoming in our seven Confirmation students for programming through the fall. Watch for details and meeting dates in the coming weeks.

-Marilyn Keller, Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Cornerstone Staffing Team is meeting this fall with recommendations to come before the Council later in the year, prior to next winter's Annual Meeting.

Property Updates: 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 some bring-your-own-breakfast work parties. Property volunteers John and Kathy Allen Kirsch, Wayne Westfall and Su Hanset have kept the property looking great. *Glen Jacobs*



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.

COVID-Safe Opportunities for Fellowship All are invited to join these regular groups. A schedule with Zoom links

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; we check in socially and discuss safe options for moving ahead in the coming year.

Congratulations to Dr. Walter Krueger upon his recent installation as Portland Chapter Dean of the American Guild of Organists.

The 11 o'clock choir, also known as "Sanctuary Choir," meets some 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 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*

November 3 is Election Day. Encourage everyone you know to vote. Pastor Knutson is on the Steering Committee for the Portland measure to create a Citizen's Police Oversight Board which will be a bellwether for the nation, and the Multnomah Library Bond Campaign office is at Augustana, staffed by Rachel Bowman.

The fall **Red Cross Blood Drive at Augustana** is Saturday, Nov. 7. The last day you can donate elsewhere and be eligible to donate on Nov. 7 is Sept. 12. Blood collection is essential. See <https://www.redcrossblood.org>. For info, click on [Learn about coronavirus and our safety protocols](#). Things continue to change, unsure about walk-in donors. Please sign up ahead; enter "AugustanaPDX" as the Sponsor Code in the red box at the top right corner of the screen, then click the arrow in the blue box and follow the steps. Contact Paul 503-753-3133 or Lois 503-422-2738 Fox with questions. Thank you for sharing the gift of life.

Augustana's Calling Team will be meeting again this month, preparing for another round of calls to check up on everyone. If you need to speak with Pastor Knutson, email him at mark@augustana.org.

The Augustana Helping Hands servant team assists 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. If you need assistance with tasks or want to help, contact Michele Delaney mdelaney@insigniahealth.com

Welcome to the TIVNU Jewish Gap Year Students! 18 students ages 17-20 from across the nation are volunteering for various non-profits and are working out of Augustana in two shifts during the week.

Lift Every Voice Oregon, located at Augustana, moves forward with a ballot initiative for the November 1, 2022 General Election and is 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: Familias en Accion is now up to 14 staff and are doing amazing work in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, including food distribution from Augustana's parking lot every Friday; the **Library bond** lead staff is officed at Augustana; **Jobs with Justice** moved their offices for 6 staff to Augustana this summer; 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 October: Your faithfulness over the past six months has placed Augustana on a good financial basis as we move forward. Regular offerings are important for us to finish the year strongly. Our current challenge is to support the Solar Project; contributions can be mailed in or online through our webpage. We also continue to collect funds for Northeast Emergency Food Program and ELCA Disaster and Hunger funds.

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.

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	