



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

Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster - September 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

"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

As we move into the month of September our focus turns to Christian Education for all ages in the congregation. We are blessed to have the Cradle Roll for infants and toddlers, Sunday School classes from age 3 to 6th grade, Confirmation for grades 7 and 8, the High School Youth Group and classes, the regular email correspondence with our College and Vocational School students, and the Adult Forum and other Christian Education Classes. **Classes begin Sunday September 13.** Join others on September 19 for the **Oregon Synod Day of Learning: Liberating Our Hidden Stories.** What is stirring your spirit and challenging your communities in these tempestuous times? This virtual Zoom event allows us to lean in and learn together this fall. Register at <http://oregonsynod.org/index.php/calendar/synod-learning-day/>

Then on Sunday, September 20 we will have our first ever Zoom **Summer in the City** from 10-11:30am with an all-star lineup. Get ready to celebrate the goodness of God.

On Sunday, September 27 we will celebrate the **Confirmation** of seven of our young leaders, six of whom are high school freshman and one of whom is a sophomore. They are Ethan Burger, Aidan Burger, Lola Connors, Katelyn Haslebacher, Jack Iboshi, Caroline Rauchholz, and Linnea Smith. This is going to be an exciting day for our young leaders and for the whole congregation. The day before Confirmation we will have an **outdoor baptism** of a 2 year old on the lawn, and in the afternoon Dr. Walter Krueger will be installed as **AGO Chapter President** in a service at Augustana. For others hoping to have baptisms during our time of Virtual Worship let us know and we will work these out. Contact office administrator extraordinaire Joyce Kindschuh to set one up.

We are also pleased to share that Marilyn Keller who is in the Jazz Hall of Fame, teaches at PSU, has taught in grade schools and high schools and is a longtime member of our staff team as music coordinator for the Jazz Service and Special Events, will

devote time to our Jr. High and High School Youth Group and will join our Youth and Family team including staff Rebecca Dodson, Jenny Schmidt, Andy Fort and myself and many wonderful volunteers who teach. We are very pleased that the Cornerstone Future Staffing Team was able to meet again even while all have kept their jobs at Augustana during Covid-19 thanks to your faithful and generous stewardship. This should be a dynamic fall as new youth and adults who have been worshipping with us will have the chance to join in for Zoom classes and groups.

The ministry we have with Youth and Families and the ongoing outreach is vital. Youth need to be heard and loved. We mourn with Amy Lee, mother of three, and her husband who have come to Augustana at various times over the years beginning when her oldest son Jaelin was attending Irvington. 16-year-old Jaelin James Scott was murdered in Gateway Horizon Park on August 27; three friends were gunned down as well. They were hospitalized and survived. Let us never cease in comforting those who mourn with such incredible loss as we continue to work with every fiber of our being to end gun and other forms of violence.

We lift up our members Jerry Benson quarantined in a nursing home and Colleen Benson his spouse of over 50 years in their new apartment. We also lift up Nora Love who is in a nursing home with cancer and her daughter who is caring for her. We lift all on our prayer list and all globally suffering from Covid-19. We lift up this nation as we seek to overcome White Supremacy and Systemic Racism while being a strong voice declaring that Black Lives Matter in concert with so many others as we use nonviolent protest and love driven advocacy for policy and institutional change at every level.

We celebrate that the Congregation voted unanimously at our special Zoom Congregational Meeting with over 120 in attendance on Saturday, August 2 to continue to move ahead on grants for our Solar Energy Project under the guidance of Care of Creation Chair Robert Morse along with the assistance of Elizabeth. Yes, we are moving to be a Solar Sanctuary Congregation ready to walk with others on such a call. Check out the full report on the next page.

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

2710 NE 14th Ave ~ Portland, Oregon 97212 ~ 503.288.6174 ~ www.augustana.org

Our Worship and Tech Teams continue to do wonderful work providing Sunday Worship Services. This has been an incredible ride and Ben Joy is putting together a six-month glimpse into the process that took flight in March and now has a large, well-trained team. According to our Web and Social Media Team the 10am English Language Service and the 11:30 Spanish Language Service that Francisco Aguirre brought all the components together for, have a combined YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram attendance that is off the charts! The beautiful handmade multi-cross banner over the altar was an inspired idea from the Sanctuary Arts Team. Our Helping Hands Team and Congregational Calling Team and the Property Team continue to do great work along with so many others, and the many weekly Zoom meetings offer something for everyone. There will be another report about this, including info on the new internet capabilities and sound that are taking place.

Your faithfulness and energy in supporting the ministry of Christ's Church at Augustana in these very challenging times has been simply wonderful. We are very well positioned for ministry in the coming months. All of the Augustana nonprofits are doing powerful work in the community along with the church alongside the most vulnerable and those who are houseless or poor. May the Holy Spirit continue to renew our minds, hearts and spirits as we share the Good News of God's love that we have experienced in Jesus Christ.

God's peace,



Pastor Mark

Augustana Solar Projects Update

An important mission of Augustana is to protect and restore God's Creation now and for generations to come. Last month the Solar Project Team made substantial progress in working toward our goal of greening Augustana to become net zero carbon.

A Special Congregational Meeting was convened on August 8th, attended remotely by more than 100 Augustana members. A resolution was unanimously approved to go forward with the solar project to install Photovoltaic panels on the Education Building roof and also to seek available grants including the Pacific Power Blue Sky* grant. A financial plan will need to be crafted to pay a portion of the solar energy system and to make repairs to the roof and upgrade the church's electrical system to be able to accommodate the solar panels.

The Solar Project Team, combined with assistance and guidance from Sander Lazar, an experienced professional grant writer, submitted the Blue Sky grant application on August 17th. Our "Trade Ally" in this undertaking is Neil Kelly Solar of NE Portland, which provided the technical details needed to complete the application. We also applied for a small Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) incentive for the design phase, as well as the larger ETO renewable energy incentive. Both ETO awards are already in place.

The total cost of the solar project as submitted is \$86.1K, with ETO contributing \$9.9K, our Blue Sky grant, if awarded \$54.6K, and Augustana's portion \$21.6K. From the 2008 solar effort, we currently have \$8K, and a family has already pledged to match up to \$5K in fundraising contributions. All contributions are welcome; they can be mailed in, or done online from our website.

The Blue Sky award recipients will be announced in February. It does NOT cover roofing and electrical upgrades. The roof work is estimated at \$65K and the electrical upgrades roughly \$15K (ballpark figure).

The solar energy system was designed to produce all of the pre-Covid electric power usage of the two church buildings plus another 10% which we plan to use to power other green options including an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station and/or replacing our fossil fuel-burning tap water heaters with high efficiency electric ones.

On August 18th, our team began investigating another Pacific

Power incentive, the Oregon Electric Mobility grant. We found out that Pacific Power pays up to 100% to install EV charging stations and provide an electric vehicle for suitable locations and purposes for eligible commercial organizations including nonprofits. In fact, we were surprised when we were encouraged to make the case that an all-electric vehicle would meet transportation needs of the church and those of our in-house nonprofit partners. It would be powered in part by the solar energy produced from our Education Building Roof. We decided to prepare an application to meet the deadline of August 31st.

We have applied for two EV charging ports to be placed in the Augustana parking lot using the two parking spaces closest to the 14th Avenue entrance. They will be available to the public at a per kilowatt hour fee calculated to cover our overhead costs. We also applied for an all-electric KIA Niro SUV, which has a range of well over 200 miles on a full charge. Purchase and installation costs for the EV charging ports, outdoor lighting for the safety of the users of the ports after dark, and vehicle purchase price all together total \$88.5K.

Who will benefit from the realization of these projects? Our nonprofit partners will be able to expand their work by sharing the EV. Augustana members and the surrounding community will have their first public EV charging station at below market rates. Air quality and the climate will also benefit. If all the grants we have applied for are awarded, by investing approximately \$100K, Augustana will have at least 25 years of free electricity from the sun, a new roof for the education building, an upgraded electrical system, two lighted EV charging ports, and new all-electric SUV.

Most importantly, we envision Augustana becoming a long-term educational hub for the Care of Creation and specifically for solar energy and electric vehicles, leading, inspiring and guiding our congregation, the broader community, and other faith communities far and wide to strive for sustainability. There will be interesting opportunities for members of the congregation to participate in the planning and execution of these educational programs.

Robert Morse, Care of Creation chair

*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 consumed each month.

Livestream Worship each Sunday at www.augustana.org

10:00 a.m. English

11:30 a.m. Spanish

Sunday, September 6

Ezek 33:7-11; Ps 119:33-40; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

Sunday, September 13 Sunday School begins (online)

Gen 50:15-21; Ps 103:[1-7]8-13; Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

Sunday, September 20

Jonah 3:10-4:11; Ps 145:1-8; Phil 1:21-30; Matt 20:1-16

Sunday, September 27

Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32; Ps 25:1-9; Phil 2:1-13; Matt 21:23-32

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)

We pray for:

Jon Jensen, Sharon Overton and Lottie Jensen on the death of Jon's mother Gloria.

Astrid and Gino Pieretti on the death of Astrid's brother, Gordon.

Amy Lee and family upon the death of her son, Jaelin James Scott, murdered August 27 at Gateway Park and for the three friends also shot who are recovering.

Francisco Aguirre, Dora Reyna & family
Roseta Akin
Bella, Linda Sumner's friend
Jessica, Linda Sumner's niece
Colleen and Jerry Benson
Chris Bergerson
Deacon Sue Best
Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel
Beth and Bob Boyce
Ron Brown
Alison Emblar-Brown
Allen Brown, Jr.
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt
Lou Carman
Kirky Doblle
Rebecca Dodson
Kathy Drozd
We pray for Sherry and Steve Eckles, searching for their son, Ian Eckles.
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, 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
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
Susan Nieman being mobilized soon to help fight Covid-19 somewhere in the country
Joyce Olson
Chris Powers, friend of Lisa Wenzlick
D'Norgia Price
Laura Ramirez, chemotherapy

Gary Rosenthal
Bill Rutz
Jenny Schmidt
Marilyn Schmidt, Myrna Shei-
e's sister
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,
Ron and Sally Beck's daughter
and granddaughter
Robert Wallace
Luci Wells
Miles Wilson

We pray for:
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 of children in our communities, especially children in foster care or other out-of-home placements.

The health, wellness and compassion of everyone 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.

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

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.

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.

Christian Education in the time of pandemic: Sunday school for all ages begins Sept. 13, 2020. It will look quite different this year than in the past. Christian Education and Faith Formation will still take place, but we cannot meet together and have to get more creative. I am reminded that for Martin Luther, home was the most important learning/teaching experience and he honored, respected, and fostered that concept. He wrote many things for family learning, the most significant in my mind is the Small and Large Catechism. These were designed for family discussions, and still are useful, especially his comments on what the 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Baptism and Communion mean, and how to live out the principles of Jesus.

With that in mind, here is how the foreseeable future of Christian Education will be starting on Sept 13: Pre-K through 1st grade students will be sent age appropriate flyers for Fall term from the Shine curriculum that we have been using for several years. The children are used to this format, and it's an easy way for parents to engage their children and learn the wonderful stories from the

Old Testament. Our amazing teachers, Kathy Jones and Joyce Minus will be available to the parents if they have questions about the materials, or need suggestions for crafts and activities. Kathy and Joyce have the teacher's guides for the lessons, which have great resource materials. They are available via phone or email.

2nd and 3rd graders will receive a different set of age-appropriate materials. The families will follow the same basic format and lessons as the younger students, while offering a different style of learning suited to their development stage.

Our 5th & 6th grades will be led via Zoom by an outstanding team of teachers. Heather McClelland and Todd Gienapp, Erich and Anna Stiefvater, Nicole King and Bill Rauchholz, Mike Lauruhn, Christine and Kevin Smith will rotate weekly to facilitate classes using the Shine curriculum and adding their own creativity to provide a rich experience to the class. This Zoom class will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday, just prior to the livestream worship service.

The confirmation program will be via Zoom as well, from 11:15 to noon on Sunday. We will study the Bible as a class, learning the lessons through the characters, judges, kings and prophets as we examine the unfolding of God's plan for humanity. This year we will cover the Old Testament, the New Testament, the structure of the Bible, how it came to be, and learn how to read it from the context in which it was written, as well as how to apply those teachings in our daily lives.

Adult Education classes are planned for the fall. Stay tuned for more information as these plans are firmed up.

Blessings to all our long-time Augustana families as well as the new community that has come to us through the Livestream services. We welcome all the families to get in touch with us if they want their children to participate in these learning opportunities.

Blessings and love,
Rebecca Dodson
Christian Education Coordinator

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 is pleased to share that Familias en Accion has added 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 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 September: Your faithfulness over the past six 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 also continue to collect funds for Northeast Emergency Food Program.

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 a few 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*



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 most recent meeting was August 27; we check in socially and discuss safe options for moving ahead in the coming year.

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

The fall **Red Cross Blood Drive at Augustana** will be Saturday, Nov. 7th. The last day you can donate elsewhere and be eligible to donate on Nov. 7 is Sept. 12. Blood collection is essential. Go to <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. Please contact Paul 503-753-3133 or Lois 503-422-2738 Fox with questions. Thank you for sharing the gift of life.

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

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.

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

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Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt	Rev. Don Voeks	Deaconess Julia Brown
Rev. Patty Campbell-Schmitt	Rev. Sandy Walker	