



Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster - Fall 2021

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
†10:00 am English 11:30 am Spanish

“The Heavens are telling the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork” Psalm 19:1

As we move from late summer to early fall the heavens are glorious with the Sun shining by day and the Harvest Moon and Stars by night. With all the challenges we face of multiple pandemics that you all know so well, let us take time to enjoy and be renewed by the beauty of God’s creation that we are called to care for; as it renews us we are called to see that it is renewed and saved for generation upon generation to come.

Worship this month will continue to be offered online but the sanctuary is open to those who wish to attend in person with masks and social distancing. In our Sanctuary that seats 600 the most who have attended in person has been 58 including worship leaders. The average has been about 25 so it is

very safe. We continue to follow state health protocols so that all at Augustana and in our community may be healthy and well.

This Fall Good Newscaster is filled with great news particularly related to Christian Education and Sunday School and the Youth Solar Energy Education Conference Saturday October 23 and the news that the Solar Energy Project is on pace to be completed by November. Enjoy what you read and all the birthdays that are listed. These are challenging as well as creative and exciting times at Augustana. In the midst of it all take time in the morning and the evening to listen and see “The Heavens telling the glory of God: and the firmaments proclaim God’s handiwork”.

Christ’s peace and joy,

Pastor Mark

Augustana Solar Project Update

The Augustana Solar Project to install a solar energy system on the Education Building roof continues to make progress. The electrical work by Vision Power and Light was completed in late August. Thanks to the generosity of the Congregation, and to grants from Energy Trust of Oregon and the Pacific Power Blue Sky program, 92% of the needed funds has been raised, with only \$11K to go. Next steps: issue of the city building permit, solar panel installation, issue of the city electrical permit, installation of the transformers by Pacific Power, and final inspections. We expect the system to be up and running in mid-October.

Our Augustana youth group is organizing a virtual event, the Solar Energy Education Conference (SEEC), scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. They will invite young people both locally and nationally to attend and participate.

-Robert and Elizabeth Morse

Christian Education

Christian Education is off and running at Augustana. With the surge in the Delta variant, we are meeting via zoom for grades 2 and up. Peggy Thatcher Aguilu is teaching the group this year for which we are very grateful. Students Pre-k & Kindergarten families receive lessons from Kathy Jones and Joyce Minus that families can use on an individual basis, as zoom doesn't work as well for that age group. Both of these groups are using the Shine curriculum.

Rebecca and Mike Lauruhn are leading the confirmation class this year, via zoom. All zoom classes take place on Sunday mornings,

9:00-9:50 a.m.

Youth, high and middle school, are working on **SEEC**, which is the **Solar Energy Education Conference** to be held Saturday, October 23, 2021 via zoom from 10 a.m. to noon, PDT. This youth-led event is open to anyone who wants to attend. The purpose of the conference is to show that possibilities exist to turn an old building into a greener one; highlighting the Augustana Solar Project that will be completed in October.

Please keep praying for all the children, families, teachers and staff as the school year gets under way. *Thanks, Rebecca and Marilyn*

At 9/17 Great news! The city building permit for the Solar Project was issued today, giving us a reason to celebrate! One more step taken on our journey!

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

Sunday, September 26

Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Ps 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Sunday, October 3

Gen 2:18-24; Ps 8; Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, October 10

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, October 17

Isa 53:4-12; Ps 91:9-16; Heb 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, October 24

Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126; Hbe 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Sunday, October 31

Reformation Day

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 46; Rom 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Many thanks to our (rotating)

Livestream Team Members includ-

ing: Ben Joy, Dave Schmidt, Jenny Schmidt, Lane Johnson, Andy Fort, Jon Jensen, Francisco Aguirre, Marilyn Keller, Glen Jacobs, Nate Fort, Katelyn Haslebacher, Keri Haslebacher, Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu, Calvin Stuczynski, Ed Granshaw, Brandon Knutson (remote), Ayn Frazee (remote), Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt (remote), Tamrah Knutson (remote), Rick Gordon (advisor); Rebecca Dodson (webpage); Mark Knutson (advisor)

Solar Organ Concert at Augustana, 3 p.m. Sunday, October 3, featuring organist Walter Krueger

Selections to include “Morning Star! (... hymn from a pandemic)”, “Toccata” by Dubois, Evocation: “Electa ut Sol” (Bright as the Sun) by Dallier, A “Stylus Fantasticus” work by Buxtehude, Concerto after Vivaldi by Bach, A Mighty Fortress is our God!, “Fortunatus New” a new Fantasy by Krueger
Marceau Pipe Organ, Refurbished Bond Organ Builders

Happy Birthday!!

Ronald Schroeder 09/01
Mark Wells 09/01
Walt Spafford 09/02
Owen Slyman 09/03
Andrea Robideau 09/06
Nathan Knutson 09/08
Rebecca Kirk 09/09
Pat Gebhardt 09/10
Todd Gienapp 09/10
Keri Haslebacher 09/11
Joaquin Lothe 09/11
Caleb Switalla 09/12
Duncan Taylor 09/13
Donald Willis 09/15

Katie Brownmiller 09/16
Edward Running 09/16
Susan Nieman 09/17
Noah Fort 09/19
Brent Swanson 09/20
Michael Kaiel 09/21
Chris Delaney 09/22
James Henry 09/22
Nicki Wahlers 09/22
Alden Peterson 09/23
Risha Wells-Comer 09/26
Elizabeth Connors 09/27
Don Voeks 09/27
Michelle Delaney 09/28

Jan Wacker 10/01
Sherry Carroll 10/02
Cecilia Perez-Jacobs 10/02
Betsy Witham 10/02
Olivia Vargas 10/03
Beckett Pollock 10/04
Ejvin Berry 10/05
Linda Knudson 10/06
Jeff Conner 10/08
Joyce Minus 10/08
Allen Brown Jr. 10/09
Kami Thompson 10/10
Jonathan Knutson 10/11
Christina Schmidt 10/11
Calvin Stuczynski 10/13

Ayn Frazee 10/16
Anna Rauchholz 10/16
Ian Turner 10/17
Lillie Spafford 10/18
Ella Kohn 10/19
Melanie Hatfield 10/21
Théa Kindschuh 10/22
Julia Brown 10/24
Marsha Henry 10/24
Kelli Joy 10/27
Christopher Lowe 10/28
Linda Sumner 10/28
Cruz Lopez 10/29
Breziah Dunnigan 10/30
Olivia Petersen 10/31

We pray for:

Colleen Benson
Chris Bergerson
Beth Boyce
Bob Boyce
Julia Brown’s mother Deb
Gary Caldwell
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt

Lou Carman
Lola Conner
Cindy Corey
Denise Gates
Marty Goplen
David Gutzler
Susan Johnson
Scott Jones
Azzree Lathan

Mike Lawrence
Alena Lesley
Serena Lloyd
Lou Martini
Grace Mattox
Scott Mattox
Darrell Mecklem
Peter Minus
Joyce Olson

David Schmidt
Fred Scholtz
Virginia Segletes
Victor Sheidler
Myrna Sheie
Brent Swanson
Luci Wells
Miles Wilson

Lift Every Voice Oregon's (part of the Augustana Center for Systemic Change) **Initiative Petitions 17 & 18** to make our communities and students safe through nationally significant legislation to end gun violence are in the Oregon Supreme Court to be made available this fall for signature gathering. The church is playing a major role in this effort.

Property Updates - Labors of Love

There are so many angels helping around here I will miss several people's names, for which I apologize.

Early on, Ansel and I repaired the bell tower walls, building a platform to get to the damage and leaving it up without people inside for a while. That seemed ages ago.

Livestream: Ben, Brandon, Andy, Dave, Jenny aided by many others in and outside of the church at the start, joined by those listed in the bulletin each week. This big job needed and received financial support, as well as hours and hours of hands-on labor.

Greg Halverson led the roof project timed

to be ready for solar panels. Steve Loniewski and crew have prepared our electrical equipment to be ready for solar, as well as other electrical upgrades needed around the church along with Mark Witham.

We have had other professionals in to work on plumbing, tree trimming, and security. David, Joe, Ansel, Lane and I met with these contractors and did what we could to keep costs down by doing some of the work ourselves.

Wayne has kept the lawn looking as good as possible with leaf, branches and grass clean-up.

Jenny, Rebecca, Joyce and the sanctuary arts and property committees have been cleaning, hanging banners, repurposing and clearing out unused stuff.

Gail and Familias en Accion received a grant to make Room 10 a usable office instead of junk storage. This meant finding a contractor to fix the upstairs restrooms to prevent flooding, as well as remodeling Room 10. Marty took on this job which also replaced the carpet on the upper landing and the office foyer.

Ansel, Floyd and I have been doing Wednesday projects such as chair carts, door trimming and closures, Fire Marshall requirements, the new Jobs with Justice office wall, bark dust, and hanging speakers in the Fellowship Hall. There is always more to do and we will be here Wednesday mornings. If you have a labor of love that you would like to work on, know that we can help and you are welcome—with a mask. *Glen Jacobs*

Financial Update: As of August, we are running a budget deficit of \$23,000. This is driven by two factors: 1) monthly offerings thru August are \$17,000 lower than forecasted; and 2) the church incurred \$6,000 of additional property expenses. The church needs \$33,400 per month in offerings to meet our annual income goal. We have only met or exceeded that target in two months this year. The addition of two new non-profit building partners will help offset our deficit but stronger giving from the congregation is necessary to close the budget gap. The church still has a strong cash position from 2020, however, maintaining that position depends on robust support from our members.

TECH TEAM

It's amazing what this group of volunteers has done! To bring livestream services to Augustana, Brandon Knutson and Ben Joy figured out how to do early broadcasts, first with an i-phone, and then a home video camera. From there, with the help of Dr. Rick Gordon, we set up a proper sound system and purchased high resolution cameras. Steve Loniewski, Glen Jacobs, Joe Paterno and David Schmidt ran cable and Ben and David updated our internet to give us more bandwidth. The next challenge was to learn how to use the equipment. Andy Fort, Lane Johnson and Mark Wells spent

countless hours educating themselves and others on using the sound system; Ben and David did the same for the computer and cameras. Francisco Aguirre works tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring that links to each service are set on YouTube and our website. Glen Jacobs updated the lighting. These volunteers have helped with Sunday services:

Sound: Andy Fort, Lane Johnson, Mark Wells, Nate Fort, Terri Svetich

Computer/cameras: Ben Joy, David Schmidt, Jon Jensen, Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu, Andrew Kindschuh, Keri Haslebacher, Katelyn Haslebacher, Grant Haslebacher, Ken Petersen, Glen Jacobs (Calvin Stuczynski and Ed Granshaw joining soon) The tech team meets once a month to plan, problem-solve and share information. As part of the team, Marilyn Keller and Pastor Mark share valuable perspectives. To join, contact Jenny Schmidt j.pl.schmidt@comcast.net We have a robust training program!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Throughout the pandemic, volunteers have helped to keep Augustana ticking. To join any of these teams, contact Jenny j.pl.schmidt@comcast.net. We have:

Cheerful cleaners: Su Hanset, Joanne Mecklem, Fiona Taylor, Peggy Thatcher, Rebecca Dodson, Linda Knudson, Mark and Jean Hoffman, Sue Van Winkle, Larry Rank, Marilyn Williams, Debby and

Don Willis, Ed Granshaw, Dennis Brooks, Judy Alley

Zoom meeting leaders: Mark Witham (Pub Theology), Linda Nelson (Coffee Hour), Jon Wacker and Lynn Gray (Book Group), Rebecca Dodson (Prayer Group and Tai Chi).

Creative sanctuary arts team: Myrna Sheie, Elaine Gammell, Judy Schwartz
Groundskeepers: Kathy and John Kirsch, Su Hanset, Larry Rank, Marilyn Williams, Debby and Don Willis, Glen Jacobs, Ansel Johnson, Robert and Elizabeth Morse, Mark Hoffman, Mark Witham, Wayne Westfall (weekly grass cutting)
Weekly tellers: Ansel Johnson, Judy Embler

Dedicated property team: Glen Jacobs, Ansel Johnson, Mark Witham, Floyd Jacobs, Marty Bell

Special thanks to Glen and Ansel who do pretty much EVERYTHING that needs to be done!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS If you have any time to spare, we could use your help. Contact Jenny if you can help with ...

CLEANING: Mon-Fri, 9:00-12:00.

Come any weekday morning, for as long as you like. There is a list of jobs.

REMOVE BOOKS: take 4 boxes of books to a donation site (Powell's, Library)

FIND HOMES FOR 4 SEWING MACHINES (in cabinets): Currently in the Fellowship Hall

RAKE LEAVES: When Fall arrives

SPREAD BARK CHIPS: Currently in buckets outside church

The Contemporary Choir meets the first Thursday each month via Zoom, at 6:15 p.m.

The Classical Choir meets every three weeks and enjoys leading worship by singing an occasional simple anthem and leading hymns in 4-part harmony. Our goal is to provide a "congregational sound." We are masked and socially distant, except for those in family pods. We **had planned** to resume in-person rehearsals this month, but by common acclamation decided to wait a month due to new Delta requirements. We pray for everyone's good health!

The **Red Cross Blood Drive at Augustana** is December 4.

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; Lift Every Voice Oregon; 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

2021 Augustana Church Council

Mark Witham, *President*
Ken Petersen, *Treasurer*
Greg Halverson, *Secretary*
Pastor Mark Knutson
Francisco Aguirre
Todd Gienapp

LeAnne Jabs
Elizabeth Morse
Robert Morse
Susan Nieman
Ramona Nieman
Gabrielle Petersen

Wayne Reitz
Laurie Richardson
Robert Trimble
Mark Witham
Rebekah Witham
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 Haslbacher
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

2021 Foundation Board

Edward Running, *President*
Ansel Johnson, *Treasurer*
Allen Brown, Jr.

Linda Knudson
Nicole King
Mark Witham, *Council President*
Pastor Mark Knutson

Pastoral Associates

Rev. David Brownmiller
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt

Rev. Patty Campbell-Schmitt
Rev. Jake Jacobson

Rev. Don Voeks
Rev. Sandy Walker
Deaconess Julia Brown