



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

Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster - December 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

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 24, 2020 ** Livestream ** Invite Others

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:2-33

Advent is now here and the story of the Annunciation in Luke 1 really sets the tone. Advent marks the beginning of a new church year filled with promise and hope. This past year of the church has taught us all a great deal. There has been continuous waiting and hoping, relationships that have stayed engaged through Zoom and livestream. And yet we are all longing for that day when we can physically come together for worship, service, conversation, laughter and the full beauty of such an eclectic array of smiling faces.

Advent is a season of preparation and expectation, of taking a breath and patiently preparing ourselves and our families to celebrate the greatest gift of all. That the God of all creation, who always was and is and will be, came to us a baby born in Bethlehem at Christmas, and comes to us every day as our Risen Lord empowering us to be his Body in the World today, his church, his hands and feet for the good of all.

Inside this Good Newscaster you will find the four Sundays of Advent that we celebrate beginning with Sunday, November 29 and concluding with Sunday, December 20. You will find news about a special Christmas Concert the amazing Musicians of Augustana are preparing to be aired with the assistance of our incredible Tech Team on Friday, December 18 at 7:00pm. You will also find news about a four-week Wednesday Advent Bible Study for all comers, and the weekly Saturday at 1:00 pm High School and Junior High Zoom gatherings that have been well attended.

You will see news of the celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe and the play that is being put together and produced by our Spanish Language Service leaders for all to enjoy at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 12. You will find ways that you can give special gifts for the EMO HIV Day Center and the Robinswood Foster Home giving program. Your extra giving in 2020 for the Friend in Need Fund, Wildfire Relief, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Allen Temple CME Church, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, the Northeast Emergency Food Program and others has been outstanding as well as our being present in the community through our non-profit partners at Augustana.

The call to continue being generous in our offerings and tithes, and the power of everyone's faithful giving in whatever amount you are able to meet our general fund goals for 2020, is as important now as ever. We have done an amazing job of weathering the storm of Covid-19 but we have real work before us to catch up in this final month and meet our budget for 2020. May we all fulfill our pledges and go the extra mile to finish this extraordinarily challenging year together in a strong position for 2021.

Above all, we will prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ, Emanuel, God with us, who came that we may all have life. This Christmas we will have one wonderful Livestreamed Service at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24 filled with Carols, Candles and Christ's Presence in our midst. This service will stream Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm but you can gather your household at whatever hour you wish with your candles shining brightly for the Christmas Story from Luke 2 and the singing of Silent Night, Holy Night. As Gabriel told Mary "And now you shall conceive in your womb and bear a son and you will name him Jesus." The Christmas Sermon is "Joy to the World."

Christ's joy and peace,

Pastor Mark



Christmas Eve Livestream Service: Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Sermon "Joy to the World"

View the service at a convenient time for your family.

Augustana Music Presents Virtual Christmas Concert, Friday, Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m.

Augustana musicians' virtual Christmas Concert premieres on our YouTube channel Friday, **December 18** at 7:00 p.m.

"Virgin of Guadalupe" play produced by our Spanish Language Service leaders for all to enjoy, livestreamed 7:00 pm, Saturday, **December 12**



New Members Class coming soon! Watch your emails.

Augustana Sunday School News

These children received Bibles in November: Tabor Stuczynski, 3rd grade; Miranda Aguirre, 4th grade; and Jake Holmes, 4th grade.

Advent begins November 29, 2020. I will send weekly readings via email that you can do with your family as you light your Advent wreath candles each week. There are many online resources to help you create your own Advent wreath or log. I strongly encourage you to keep this tradition up this year. Watch your mailboxes for Advent calendars we will mail to SS families the last week of November.

I will find resources online for ideas to help us prepare for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus as we are facing a vastly different Christmas/Advent experience this year. If you have a favorite craft idea or story, please send them to me and I can distribute them to Augustana families.

I believe it is important for us to focus on what we **have** and what we **can** do, rather than on what is missing this year. If you have ideas for celebrating safely or doing something kind for neighbors,

please email me or call 971-400-9381 so I can share them.

Curriculum for December: Sunday school will study the stories of Jesus' birth, the Old Testament prophecy, the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph's story, and the gift of the Magi from our latest Shine winter curriculum.

Christmas Pageant will not take place this year. I will email some suggestions of what to watch together as families, both commercial productions and livestreamed pageants from other churches.

Winter Break: There will not be Zoom class Dec 20, Dec. 27, 2020, or January 3, 2021 for Winter Break. Regular classes for 2021 will begin January 10.

Christmas Eve Service: Worship will take place the four Sundays of Advent on our livestream network as usual and there will be one livestreamed service at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This can be seen any time that is convenient for your family and the activities you are planning. It can even be viewed twice!

Praying for your families in this time of waiting and uncertainty, that you will be strengthened and empowered by knowing that you are God's children and are deeply loved. *In Christ, Rebecca*

The Augustana High School Youth Group

continues the **BottleDrop fundraiser:** For the upcoming holiday season, BottleDrop is matching funds for non-profits of up to an **additional 20 percent** of cans and bottles dropped off **through December 1st.** Blue Bags tagged with the Augustana Youth tag and dropped at any BottleDrop location during this specified matching period will count toward our total. Laura Thalacker has registered Augustana's Youth Group for this 20 percent match. Blue bags are available in the church office.

The All Saints Cross Project with 500 wooden crosses made by immigrants in the Willamette Valley remembering the 500 women, men and children that died along the US / Mexico border in 2019 was amazing. This was a powerful project for children, youth, members and friends of Augustana of all ages.

Every Saturday, 1:00-1:45 p.m. High School/Jr. High meets via Zoom. Attendance is strong and growing. All youth and friends are welcome. God's blessings - *Marilyn Keller, Interim Youth Coordinator*

Augustana Solar Project Team Updates

The Pacific Power Electric Mobility grant awards are to be announced in December. Augustana would receive funds (\$70K) to install two public EV charging stations in our parking lot and to purchase an all-electric KIA Niro SUV to be used by Augustana and its non-profit partners. Our Pacific Power Blue Sky solar grant (\$54K) application passed an initial screening, and our team had a good interview November 19th. We have applied for the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) grant, which would provide funds for our solar project. Both Blue Sky and PCEF announce their awards in February.

Any one of these grants will help Augustana take an important step towards becoming a net zero carbon congregation. We will need to contribute a portion of the costs to complete the project.

The Italian takeout fundraiser to benefit the Solar Project Fund was held November 22. It featured Chef Vincenzo's lasagna and Elizabeth's tiramisu. We were very pleased with the enthusiasm with which the congregation and some others welcomed this initiative. The funds raised (close to \$4000) exceeded our expectations. Thanks to all who supported the event, including Vincenzo, who donated his time and expertise.

-Robert Morse, Care of Creation Team Chair

2020 Offerings Year-End Sprint: December is our final month when members and friends of Augustana catch up on our offerings as an act of worship and thanksgiving, and many go the extra mile during this time. Our offering goal is \$75,000 as we finish this year of ministry in a powerful way. Let us all do our part, for God has been good to us.

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

Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, November 29

1 Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sermon "We Are All the Work of God's Hand"

Sunday, December 6

2 Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sermon "The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed"

Sunday, December 13

3 Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps 126; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon "What Is the Glory of the Lord?"

Rose City Mixed Quartet

Sunday, December 20

4 Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon "Nothing Is Impossible for God"

Christmas Eve Livestream Service

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

View the service at a convenient time for your family.



Sermon "Joy to the World"



Sunday, December 27

1 Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Sermon "Mine Eyes Have Seen"

Many thanks to our (rotating) musicians listed on the back, worship leaders, and our Livestream Team Members including:

Ben Joy, Dave and 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)

Prepare the Way of the Lord! Join us for Advent Bible Study/Discussion Group, led by Mary Anne Turner and Cynthia Ingebretson. **Four Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 -8:00 pm: Nov. 25, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, and Dec. 16** Come to all or as many as you're able! *Note: This is a very special opportunity. Cynthia and Mary Anne are excellent facilitators. Be prepared for thought-provoking discussion and fellowship.*

December is when we send **homemade cookies for finals** studying. Please bring cookies to church, upper kitchen, **Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m.** Wear your mask! Because of the pandemic, I will package and mail packages myself. Your making the cookies, though, is safe enough; the virus is spread by breathing in the virus. It does not affect the alimentary canal, but the respiratory function. We'll just make sure there's as little contact as possible. Thank you for all your help! *-Beth Boyce*

Augustana Music Presents Virtual Christmas Concert, Friday, Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m. Augustana musicians offer a Virtual Christmas Concert, premiering on our YouTube channel Friday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. Augustana Jazz Quartet, plus the 8:30 Band, plus Sanctuary Choir members combine to create a colorful and harmonious event. Our

Classical service presents "playing of the merry organ" and "sweet singing" from the choir. Our Jazz Quartet offers carols of the seasons including the thoughtful "Some Children See Him." The 8:30 Band will offer their special version of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" and other favorites. Christmas scriptures will be shared by Augustana families from the intimacy of their homes. All will be produced socially distant and pre-recorded. Come and prepare for Christmas with us.

Moses Movers reports an amazing number of folks served during this pandemic by **Northeast Emergency Food Program:** 34,000 in March; 45,000 in April; 50,108 in May. Prior to covid-19 the monthly number was 3,372! NEFP is the most active emergency food program in Oregon. The numbers are truly incredible, a remarkable validation of our Servant Ministry over the years. NEFP remains a true oasis in EMO's ministry to those in need. Thanksgiving Blessings and Good Health from Dale, Greg, Wayne

Property Updates: The property committee has been busy with leaves. Don Willis, the Connor and Jensen families have helped the regular Saturday crew of John and Kathy, Ansel, Judy, Larry and Marilyn, Wayne, Marty, Elizabeth and Robert, Judy, Su, Veronica and me. We had professional tree

Open Circle, under the leadership of Andrea Robideau, works faithfully to seek out and serve the most vulnerable. Please keep all in your prayers.

trimmers cut limbs away from the building and street and it looks good. Floyd Jacobs has joined Ansel and me on Wednesdays and he has secured all of the loose pews as well as joining us on other projects. -Glen Jacobs

2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the church office; call before you stop by to pick yours up. If you're at church for a work party, Sunday worship, tech help, etc. remember to pick up your offering envelopes, thanks!

Regular Zoom Gatherings: All are welcome to join. Please see the weekly Zoom schedule for links.

Women's Bible Study and Prayer, every Mon. 9:30am

Men's Pub Theology, 1st Tues, 7pm

Knotty Needlers (crochet/knitting/conversation) 1st Wed, 10am

Book Group, monthly on the 3rd Tues, 7pm

Tai Chi, weekly on Tues, 10am, Thurs 1pm, Sat 11am

Coffee hour every Sun, 11:15am

Volunteer Opportunities: Augustana could use your help! If you are interested in any of the following, please contact Jenny j.pl.schmidt@comcast.net

Saturday Property Team: Saturdays at 9:00am (outdoors)

Maintenance at flexible times (you choose when and how often): leaf raking; sanctuary upkeep (vacuuming/straightening pews); "fix it" jobs around the church (painting, minor repairs, changing light bulbs); general cleaning (sweeping, vacuuming); baking communion bread

Technical help with Sunday worship: Seeking volunteers to help with livestreaming and sound. We have an awesome team and seek to expand. Come join us! We will train you!

The Cornerstone Staffing Team met several times this fall, with recommendations to come before the Council later in the year, prior to Annual Meeting on Feb. 7, 2021.

The Contemporary Choir meets monthly via Zoom; we check in socially and discuss safe options for moving ahead in the coming year. *Andrew Fort*

The 11 o'clock choir meets monthly, virtually from home via the Zoom platform. It is a time for sharing how we are doing and tell stories. *Dr. Walter Krueger*

Augustana's Calling Team meets regularly and has conducted another round of calls to check up on everyone. If you need to speak with Pastor Knutson, email him at mark@augustana.org.

Augustana Helping Hands team assists Augustana members needing help with household tasks during Covid quarantine and distancing regulations. Over 20 members of the Augustana community volunteer with dog walking, Zoom calls, grocery or pharmacy runs, phone calls, mask-making, etc. For assistance with tasks or to help, contact Michele Delaney mdelaney@insigniahealth.com

We pray for the family of **Mike Oswald**, Heidi Spaford's brother who died on Nov. 1 in Denver, and the family of **Carla Moore**, Lynn Gray's cousin, upon her death Nov. 17. We give thanks for their lives and the new life that is theirs in Christ.

We pray for all who've lost loved ones, communities destroyed and all those 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
Karen Almquist
Bella
Jessica
Colleen Benson
Chris Bergerson
Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel
Beth Boyce
Ron Brown

Alison Emblar-Brown
Allen Brown, Jr.
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt
Lou Carman
Toni Chang
Patty Cooper
Pr. Christine and John Core
Kirky Doble
Kathy Drozd
Paul Fox
Delores Franklin
Pat Gebhardt
Deaunka Geiger
Norene Goplen
Brian Gregory
Michelle Greyfox
Philip Greyfox
Ted and Toni Hagenbucher
Karen Hansen
Kelsey Hansen
Katelyn Haslebacher
Michael Hayes
Mahsa Heidari
Leah Higgin
Cary Hoffman
Ed Hope
Marcie Jinings
Eddie Johnson
Kristen Johnson

Susan Johnson
Tony Keller
Gladine Reynolds
April Lane
Anthony Lathan
Chris and Annabel Pacheco Marquez
Scott Mattox
Jean McKenzie
Peter Minus
Nicole Mongrain
Ann Nelson
Linda Nelson
Susan Nieman
Joyce Olson
Chris Powers
D'Norgia Price
Laura Ramirez
Gary Rosenthal
Jenny Schmidt
Fred Scholtz
Virginia Segletes
Jerrime Shelton
Erin Spadelli
Barry Sutton
Mary Jo Swalwell
Brent Swanson
Lynn Thompson
Armando Vasquez
Rev. Don Voeks
Courtney and Trinity Walker

Robert Wallace
Luci Wells
Miles Wilson

Lord, we lift up the people of Tigray and Ethiopia who are suffering in a senseless war. We especially pray for the friends of David and Jenny Schmidt in Tigray whose lives are threatened. Save the people from suffering, end the anger and hatred, and bring peace.

We pray for: All who are houseless; for 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 good and safe 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 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/Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, people, and their families 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.

TIVNU Jewish Gap Year Students: 18 students ages 17-20 from across the nation volunteer for various non-profits, working out of Augustana in two shifts during the week.

Lift Every Voice Oregon, located at Augustana, continues 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 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** has been housed at Augustana since June; and the **VIVA Inclusive Migrant Network** completes its first year. Of course all staff members of these partners are primarily working from home.

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
Interim Youth Coord: Marilyn Keller

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 & Jancy Paterno, Barbara Passolt, Noah Fort, Steve Aguilu, Keri Haslebacher
Organist & Sanctuary Choir Director: Dr. Walter Krueger

Pianist, Contemporary & Sunday School/Children's Choir Director: Andrew Fort
Jazz Service: Marilyn Keller, George Mitchell, Ron Steen, Kevin Deitz
Spanish service: Francisco Aguirre, Oscar Amaya, Elvio Gonzalez, Jackeline Luna, Dora Reyna, Aranza and Miranda Aguirre

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

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	