



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

Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster - January 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

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

†10:00 am English

†11:30 am Spanish

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” *John 1:1-5*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all as we begin the year of our Lord 2021 filled with the hope that Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ brings us. Generations before us have faced tremendous challenges as we do today in God’s global village as we take on the pandemics of Covid-19 that has taken the lives of so many; systemic racism born of white supremacy; decimation and abuse due to one’s gender or sexual orientation; economic hardship and the displacement of millions who are now international and domestic refugees; violence whether with guns in our communities or wars among nations; the self-inflicted pandemic of global warming and environmental degradation; and the rise of fascism and those who would try to destroy our democracy.

And yet we have hope, yes hope born in Bethlehem. Hope that we can overcome these pandemics and others to weave the Beloved Community where all have life and, as Jesus said, have it abundantly. We have faith that the Risen Christ will help us to rise in this life and the next. We have Love that the one we call Christ can teach us how to love in ways that truly can overcome hate and bring the beautifully diverse and eclectic human family and the creation together as God intends.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, which are words we heard at Christmas and words we will hear the first Sunday of 2021, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the be-

ginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

We experienced that light of Christ as we ended 2020 with two virtual events that drew thousands to Augustana with over 3000 views for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service and over 1700 views of our special Christmas Concert. We will enter 2021 worshipping together through livestream with the 10:00 a.m. service in English and the 11:30 a.m. service in Spanish. On Sunday, January 17 we will host the Albina Ministerial Alliance Martin Luther King Celebration as part of our 25th Annual King Service which is the longest running King Sunday Service in Oregon. Continue to invite others this month so they may experience the Faith, Hope and Love that we share in Christ.

Yes, we begin this year 2021 knowing that God who is faithful will lead us and guide us into a new day. For out of every crisis and storm in life God can do something new. Yes, this Christmas and Epiphany season let us always remember that the light of Christ shines and as we celebrate our own baptism this month let us “Let our lights so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our God in heaven.”

Christ’s peace and joy,

Pastor Mark

➔➔ Annual Meeting - Saturday, February 6, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Council Officers, Foundation Chair, Committee Chairs, Group/Team Leaders:
All organization reports are due by noon Friday, January 15 for inclusion in the Annual Report booklet. Email documents to ministry@augustana.org

Augustana Sunday School News

Sunday School classes resume January 10 on Zoom and with home meetings as well.

Many thanks to all the teachers and staff who have faithfully taught and served our Sunday school during this most challenging year. We have a great team and the children learn from them each week and know they are loved. It has been challenging doing Sunday School via Zoom, both for teachers and students.

The 5 & 6th grade class meets via zoom at 9 a.m. on Sunday. This teaching team is Heather, Erich and Anna, Mike, Christine and Kevin, and Nicole. They have been having a lot of fun finding appropriate YouTube videos to supplement the lessons.

Peggy Thatcher Aguilu has joined the teaching team, leading 2, 3, & 4th grades via zoom Sunday at 9 a.m.

The 1st grade students are zooming with Espen's grandmother in Springfield.

Pre-K and Kindergarten students are being supported by Kathy and Joyce, who send home weekly lessons and craft ideas. It was decided that zoom does not work very well for children this young, but they are still part of Sunday school.

We have added new students who live out of the area by sending them curriculum materials.

Confirmation Class resumes January 10 at 11:15 a.m. on Zoom.

Youth meet with Marilyn Keller each Saturday via zoom resuming on January 10.

Wishes and prayers for a Happy New Year and that 2021 will be filled with health, peace, joy, and love.

- *Rebecca Dodson, Education Coordinator*

The Augustana High School Youth Group hosted a Zoom Christmas Call with Augustana Elders on December 19.

This was a new experience for all! In attendance were Pastor Mark, Marilyn Keller (hosts); Ben, Will & Jack Iboshi; Katelyn, Keri & Grant Haslebacher; Ella Whitaker; Rebekah Witham; Shelby Knutson; Linnea Smith; Aidan & Ethan Burger; Calvin Tabor; Gillian & Caleb Switalla; Honored Elders: Su Hanset; Joanne and Darrell Mecklem; Kathy Allen-Kirsch and John Kirsch; Marilyn Williams.

We began with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer. The students introduced themselves, giving their school affiliations. The elders introduced themselves in the same way. The elders were invited to share how they are making it through during the quarantine- and the general consensus is: just fine. They see who they can- socially distanced- and enjoy the live-streamed services and concerts.

Marilyn Williams shared that she and her husband participated in a food share program that had expected 500 cars to deliver the boxes - and over 1500 cars showed up! Joanne and Darrell shared what it is like to live on a houseboat- and offered to sponsor a party there-

when possible. Everyone was very grateful for the Sunday morning live-streams that connect us! Pastor Mark shared the statistics and numbers of viewers the services gain for the Augustana community.

Everyone shared special memories of past holidays and offered their special gifts and talents to each other during the coming weeks and months. We sang an early 'Happy Birthday' to Su, who celebrates her 80th on the 21st of December! We closed with reflections from everyone and commitment to seeing this gathering happen again in the spring- before Easter. Christmas Greetings were given, and the meeting closed.

BottleDrop fundraiser: Blue Bags tagged with the Augustana Youth tag and dropped at any BottleDrop location generate funds for our youth group. Blue bags are available in the church office.

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

We are still in the running for two grants for a solar energy system for the Education Building roof: Pacific Power Blue Sky, and PCEF. Both organizations are scheduled to announce their awards in February. Although we had a strong application, we did not receive the Pacific Power Electric Mobility grant. We were told that preference was given to applicants in rural areas. Since 2008, however, our primary

objective has been to install solar power to meet the electricity needs of the church and our non-profit partners.

The Italian takeout fundraiser, held in November, to benefit the Solar Project Fund was a great success. The final tally of funds raised exceeded \$4400, netting nearly \$4000 after expenses. Details will be coming soon about Italian Takeout Fundraiser #2 in mid-February!

-*Robert Morse, Care of Creation Team Chair*

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

Sunday, January 3 II Christmas

Jer 31:7-14; Ps 147:12-20; Eph 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9]10-18

Sunday, January 10 Baptism of Our Lord

Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17 II Epiphany

1 Sam 3;1-10[11-20]; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24 III Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31 IV Epiphany

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

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)

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

Moses Movers reports an amazing number of folks served during this pandemic by **Northeast Emergency Food Program**. NEFP is the most active emergency food program in Oregon. NEFP remains a true oasis in EMO's ministry to those in need. In December, Moses Movers contributed \$1000 to NEFP, and \$2600 to support Augustana's general fund. New Year Blessings and Good Health from Dale, Greg, Wayne

Property Updates: The property committee keeps the building and grounds looking great. The regular Saturday crew are John and Kathy, Ansel, Judy, Larry and Marilyn, Wayne, Marty, Elizabeth and Robert, Judy, Su, Veronica and me. We had professional tree 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*

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, Thurs, Sat at 10am

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 jpl.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 made to the Council at December's meeting.

The Contemporary Choir meets monthly via Zoom; we check in socially and discuss safe options for moving ahead in the coming year. Our next meeting is **January 7 from 7-8 p.m.** *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

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.

<p>We pray for the families and friends of Sean Brandon friend of Eric North; Bruce Duncan husband of Trudy, friend of Joanne and Darrell Mecklem; Robert Upton and Nicholas Perro, nephews of Roseta Akin; and the Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel upon their deaths. We give thanks for their lives and the new life that is theirs in Christ.</p>	<p>Pr. Christine and John Core, home lost in fire Linda Day, Bob Boyce's cousin Kirky Doble Kathy Drozd 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 Michael Hayes Mahsa Heidari Leah Higgin Mark Hoffman's brother Cary Ed Hope Marcie Jinings Eddie Johnson Kristen Johnson Susan Johnson Scott Jones Tony Keller, Marilyn's brother Jim Knutson, Laurie Richardson's brother Tamrah Knutson's mother, Gladine Reynolds April Lane Anthony Lathan Serena Lloyd</p>	<p>Chris and Annabel Pacheco Marquez Scott Mattox Jean McKenzie, Tamrah's aunt Peter Minus Nicole Mongrain Ann Nelson Linda Nelson Susan Nieman mobilized to help fight Covid-19 Joyce Olson Chris Powers, friend of Lisa Wenzlick D'Norgia Price Laura Ramirez, chemotherapy Gary Rosenthal 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 Erik Hans Vagen Armando Vasquez Rev. Don Voeks Courtney and Trinity Walker, Ron/Sally Beck's daughter and granddaughter Robert Wallace Luci Wells Miles Wilson Lord, we lift up the people of Tigray and Ethiopia</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The physical and emotional safety of children in our communities, especially children in foster care or other out-of-home placements.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Present and past members of the Open Circle community at Augustana.</p> <p>Elders and families</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The preservation of and equity in access to clean, safe water for all.</p> <p>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, people, and their families still searching or waiting for justice or closure.</p> <p>Strength, endurance, and unity of everyone rising up to eliminate systemic racism and social inequities in their communities.</p> <p>Healing of the wider church body, that it may grow in compassion for the most vulnerable members of all communities.</p> <p>All those affected by the virus throughout the world.</p>
--	--	---	---	---

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

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 & 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 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	