



Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster

January / February 2023

Epiphany to I Lent

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

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

Worship in person or livestream at www.augustana.org

†10:00 am English

†11:30 am Spanish

16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

As we give thanks for our ministry together in 2022 and embrace the year 2023, January and February are a remarkable time of change and hope in the church year. In January we completed the 12 days of Christmas and come to the day of the Epiphany as Jesus, born in Bethlehem that first Christmas, is revealed to the nations as the light of the world. Then as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord in the river Jordan we celebrate ours and those to come this year through water and the Word. The season of Epiphany then takes us into February and later in the month to Ash Wednesday and our sacred Lenten Journey leading to the celebration of Easter.

As we move through these changes the days begin to lengthen and eventually new life will begin to sprout. During this time we will come together with our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5, our first in person Annual Meeting in 3 years, to celebrate all that God has done through Christ's church with the power of the Holy Spirit at Augustana. We will give thanks for a remarkable year together as we explore and vision what God is calling us to in 2023.

In December we had the memorial service for **Darrell Mecklem**. We give thanks for his life and celebrate the new life that is his in Christ as we keep **Joanne** and the family in our prayers. We also had the service for **Sascha Marie Elliott** on January 4 and keep her family in our prayers. The service for **Dr. Jim Darke** will be Saturday, Feb. 11 and we keep his family in our prayers as well.

Change is a part of every season and in February 2023 we will move through a monumental change at Augustana as Joyce Kindschuh retires as our Office Administrator and Executive Assistant after 27 years of excellent and faithful service to the congregation and the community. This will be a big change for Augustana even as we are thrilled for all the experiences Joyce has before her in the coming years.

Yes the seasons will change and the church will change and we move into it trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us just as the Spirit has led us and guided Augustana for 117 years and the church catholic for well over 2000! A great example of this is the Second Annual Sustainable Energy Education Conference (SEEC) our teenagers are planning for Saturday, February 25th from 10am-12:00 noon on the 1st Anniversary of the launching of our Solar Power System at Augustana, which is providing wonderful power in its first year of operation.

As we move into God's future of promise in 2023 at Augustana, we do so with great thanksgiving for each of you, with deep faith in a God who is able, with profound hope, and in the spirit of Love knowing that God will lead us and guide us as we boldly share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community and all the world. To God be the glory.

Christ's peace and joy,

Pastor Mark

**Our annual Martin Luther King service is
Sunday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m. featuring a sermon
of Dr. King's woven through Freedom songs.
Invite others to join us.**

➔➔ Annual Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023
*Council Officers, Foundation Chair, Committee Chairs,
Group/Team Leaders: All organization reports are due by
noon Thursday, January 19 for inclusion in the Annual Re-
port booklet. Email documents to ministry@augustana.org*

New Members Received Sunday, December 18 Welcome to new members **Mark Luecht, Arlet Gremel, Karen and Randy Rowe**. We are so glad you are here! Received in baptism on December 24 was **Esther Rose Kindschuh**, daughter of Andrew Kindschuh and Rongrong Wang (grandparents Joyce and Kevin).

Sunday School and Confirmation News

We are in the season of Epiphany, when we celebrate that Jesus' birth was for the whole world. We begin the season remembering the visit of the Wise Ones from an entirely different culture, who believed and came to see. During this time which is the darkest part of the year; we are reminded that we move from darkness to light in the love of Christ. It is a time of looking for hope and new beginnings, as we share our light with each other and the world. Our God is still in control, and we can experience God's miracles daily, if we but look.

Sunday school and confirmation classes began for this year of 2023, on January 8. We are blessed to continue to have Kathy Jones coordinate **Pre-K and Kinders** weekly sharing of lesson plan, story card & picture, supplemental activity ideas, prayer, scripture references, & leaflet with activities for child to do to reinforce key concepts from the lesson. She does this through brief in-home visits and electronically. The Moms and Dads do the lessons and activities with their children at home on Sundays or at their convenience.

Meeting in-person at church wasn't the best option for these young kiddos with Covid, flu and RSV in the mix. This model has been working out well for everyone as parents have special learning time with their children, and we all enjoy the (safe distance) home delivery time, as well.

Elementary Sunday School classes are held on Sundays from 9:00 – 9:45 on Sundays at Augustana. The students enjoy being together and we are fortunate to have a team of teachers. Rotating for winter/spring continues to be Drew and Arlet Gremel, and Peggy Thatcher Aguilu along with Amy and Edward Running who will be with us for the rest of this school year. Many thanks to Amy and Ryan Stucynski who were an integral part of the fall/winter rotation.

Children are provided some time for check in on their week, and we take turns reading from "Great Big Love, God's Story For You & Me" along with special activities from our Spotlight Book. The teachers also provide snack each week to keep the energy going. Children were brainstorming this winter and we had a lively brainstorming ideas with one of bringing back an Easter Egg hunt and sharing it with the Augustana Neighborhood Community.

Secondary Sunday School classes have Mike Lauruhn coordinating this active group also held on Sundays from 9:00 – 9:45 at Augustana. Augustana's middle schoolers resumed in-person learning and began the second phase of Confirmation class. Fall was focused on Genesis and Exodus, with some of the most well-known Bible stories: the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood, as well as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the ongoing covenant between God and humanity. November and December concluded with stories of Moses and the Exodus. Students and their families ended the calendar year with a Sunday morning social that included youth and their parents reading Nativity verses and singing Nativity songs in a bit of a Children's Pageant reunion.

Our youth are preparing for the second virtual SEEC event. Following on from last year's Solar Energy Education Conference, the event has been rebranded as the Sustainable Energy Education Conference. Annali, Calvin, Linnea, and Nathan (two high schoolers and two middle schoolers) have been refining the scope and inviting speakers to present. This year's themes include the science and infrastructure, as well as public policy and careers related to sustainability energy efforts. Speakers scheduled to appear include Oregon State Senator Michael Dembrow and Michael Abel of PGE's Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility. The virtual event will be Saturday, February 25. Registration begins January 8.

More children are welcome and encouraged to join us any of our 3 groups. With blessings, Peggy Thatcher Aguilu

The annual **Sustainable Energy Education Conference** led by the youth of Augustana Lutheran church in which you can hear from and ask questions of speakers involved with climate justice, sustainable energy, and more, including Oregon Senator Michael Dembrow and US Senator Jeff Merkley, is **Saturday, February 25, 2023**, from 10 a.m. to noon, PDT via Zoom. See more information at sites.google.com/view/seec2. Registration opens 1/8/23.

Augustana High School Youth: Augustana Youth join youth from four other congregations monthly for group events and activities in the NE Youth Collective. - *Marilyn Keller, Interim Youth Coordinator*

Augustana continues to seek a Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator. We are in conversation with the Synod office as well about pastors and lay professionals who may be looking for a part-time call. If you have names of individuals you think would be interested, please let us know.

Augustana Care of Creation Updates

It's been nearly a year since we celebrated the completion of our solar array; now we celebrate that in early December the church offices had the installation of mini-split heat pump heating/cooling units, powered by our solar array. Many thanks to Robert Morse who initiated and shepherded this project, and with spouse Elizabeth and friend Chef Vincenzo organized the annual Italian Takeout Fundraiser raising

over \$4,000; to Glen Jacobs, Ansel Johnson and Greg Halverson who facilitated the installation, to the Heat Pump Store for their on time and neat work; and to the Energy Trust of Oregon for a \$4,500 grant.

We thank the generous members and friends of Augustana for your donations and support of the Italian dinner fundraiser.

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

Sunday, January 1 (Epiphany lessons)
 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7; 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

Sunday, January 8 Baptism of Our Lord
 Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17

Sunday, January 15 2 Epiphany
 Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22 3 Epiphany
 Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-23

Sunday, January 29 4 Epiphany
 Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12

Sunday, February 5 5 Epiphany
 Isa 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; 1 Cor 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matt 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12 6 Epiphany
 Deut 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Matt 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19 Transfiguration of Our Lord
 Exod 24:12-18; Psalm 2 *or* Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday, February 22
 Services with Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 26 1 Lent
 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

Many thanks to our (rotating) musicians, worship leaders, and our Livestream Team Members including: **Livestream/Tech Crew (rotating):** Ben Joy, Dave Schmidt, Jenny Schmidt, Lane Johnson, Andy Fort, Mark Wells, Francisco Aguirre, Marilyn Keller, Glen Jacobs, Nate Fort, Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu, Calvin Stuczynski, Linnea Smith, Annali Smith, Ed Granshaw, Brandon Knutson (remote), Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt (remote), Tamrah Knutson (remote), Rick Gordon (advisor); David Schmidt (webpage); Mark Knutson

➔➔ Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 Council Officers, Foundation Chair, Committee Chairs, Group/Team Leaders: All organization reports are due by noon Thursday, January 19 for inclusion in the Annual Report booklet. Email documents to ministry@augustana.org Nominations for Church Council and Foundation are being accepted through the office through Tuesday, January 17.

Augustana's office administrator Joyce Kindschuh retires in February after 27 years of faithful service. Watch for more about her retirement. Right now we are seeking candidates for this position (full time with benefits). Contact Pastor Knutson at mark@augustana.org

Augustana's Choir rehearses on **Thursday evenings** in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. All voices are welcome to join us! **Why choirs sing?** We sing in great thankfulness for blessings "Now Thank We All Our God." We sing of Christ through artful poetry "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring." We sing our belief and confidence in the providence the God who is "I AM forever who I AM." We pray God's continual presence in our midst, "Stay with Us 'til night has come." Join us! -*Dr. Walter Krueger*

The Lutheran Choral Association resumes its **Christmas/Epiphany Concert** series **January 8 at 4:00 pm.** Peace Lutheran Church, 2201 N Rosa Parks Way. Enjoy this large ecumenical choir, which has sung since 1938.

Property Updates: Ansel, Wayne and I are working on lawn care, leaf raking and various projects. We, with Robert have facilitated the replacement of several heating / cooling systems to make us as a church even greener, with help from the Energy Trust of Oregon. - *Glen Jacobs*

MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Women's Bible Study and Prayer meets every Monday at 9:30am via Zoom. The study leaders are amazing Bible

scholars and the group is warm and welcoming. All women are invited.

Men's Pub Theology meets in-person every first Wednesday at 7pm at McMenamin's (NE Broadway & 15th). Discussion is thoughtful and relaxed. Come check it out!

The **Property Committee** needs periodic help with inside and outside maintenance. Watch for announcements. They appreciate any amount of help. Pre work party breakfasts are delicious and fun. All are welcome!

We are looking for volunteers to **help prep for communion.** The commitment is about once a month or once every two months. Prep takes about 15-20 minutes before a service. If you are interested contact Jenny j.pl.schmidt@comcast.net.

Tech Team: We are always looking for help with cameras and sound for Sunday services. How often do you get to learn a cool new skill and work fancy equipment? Our livestream is such a vital ministry. Commitment is about one Sunday a month, and you choose the Sunday.

Moses Movers: Moses Movers volunteers with our Augustana Moses Movers Food Bank Servant Ministry. The goal is for each of us to take part in a training at NEFP, pick a time that works for each of us on a monthly basis, and volunteer during that time frame. Thanks and Blessings, Dale, Greg, & Wayne *Many thanks to Dale Walker, Greg Hal-*

erson, and Wayne Forsgren.

Book Group: Meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7pm via Zoom.

Tai Chi, weekly via Zoom Tues, Thurs, Sat at 10am

Augustana Center for Systemic Change: Familias en Accion continues their amazing work, including food distribution from Augustana's parking lot each week; **Jobs with Justice** and **VIVA Inclusive Migrant Network** are housed at Augustana.

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.

We pray for ...	Cheryl D.	Azzree L.	Joyce O.	Mark S.
Roseta A.	Sil D., hip surgery 12/23	Rev. Anthony L.	Alice P., Elizabeth M.'s mother	Brent S.
Colleen B.	Rebecca D.	Alena L.	Craig P.	Teresa S., Karen H.'s sister, surgery Dec.
Beth B.	Alison E.	Pat L., brain cancer	Fred S.	Sue VW
Bob B.	Paul F.	Grace M.	Virginia S., Jennifer F.'s mother	Arlene W.
Laurie B.'s grandson, his mom and family	Pat G.	Scott M.	Victor S.	Miles W.
Lou C.	Ted H.	Joanne M.		
Rose C.	Susan J.	Karen M., ovarian cancer		
	Scott J.	Gay M., hip surgery 1/6	Linda S.'s niece Jessica	

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating birthdays in January and February!	Jenomi M.	01/11	Katelyn H.	01/31	Stephanie S.	02/05
	Armaan B.	01/13	Nicholas J.	01/31	Rachel T.	02/06
	Pearl G.	01/13			Matteo L.	02/08
	Joel N.	01/13	Denali H.	02/01	Naomi M.	02/08
	Adelyn P.	01/15	Alexander H.	02/01	Gary O.	02/10
Chuck M.	Marilyn K.	01/17	Kitty K.	02/01	Lisa W.	02/10
Julie M.	Keira S.	01/17	Helen S.	02/01	Jade M.	02/12
Louie L.	Tanner S.	01/17	Victoria B.	02/02	Carli G.	02/13
Robert M.	Eli K.	01/19	Gail B.	02/03	Hailey H.	02/13
Judith E.	Anne W.	01/19	Mike C.	02/03	Roxanne P.	02/13
Nicholas H.	Laurie R.	01/21	Kimberly R.	02/03	Noel V.	02/13
Nathan O.	Cody R.	01/21	Joseph F.	02/04	Sue H.	02/14
Janis B.	Gwen Zander C.	01/22	Maxine L.	02/04	Cynthia I.	02/14
Ella S.	Margaret O.	01/27	Olivia W.	02/04	Audrey S.	02/14
Christine T.	Anna C.	01/28	Veronica J.	02/05	Laura M.	02/26
Alison E.	Lee H.	01/29	Audrey N.	02/05	Floydean S.	02/26
Isaac T.	Kristi D.	01/31	Matthew N.	02/05	John K.	02/27

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

immigration 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; Open Circle Ministries; the Augustana New Sanctuary Institute

Augustana Lutheran Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Mark Knutson
Admin. Asst: Joyce Kindschuh
Gifts for Ministry: Jenny Schmidt
Education Coord:
Interim Youth Coord: Marilyn Keller

2022 Augustana Church Council		
Ramona Nieman, <i>Co-President</i>	Sil Davis	Robert Morse
Susan Nieman, <i>Co-President</i>	Todd Gienapp	Wayne Reitz
Lisa Joy Switalla, <i>Secretary</i>	Rev. Anthony Lathan	Laurie Richardson
Ken Petersen, <i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Lauruhn	Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu
Pastor Mark Knutson	Gay Mitchell	Robert Trimble
Diane Davis	Elizabeth Morse	Lisa Wenzlick

Musicians
Contemporary Music Coordinators: Maile Grumm, Jenny Schmidt, Joe Paterno, Andy Fort
Contemporary Band: Barbara Passolt-Pinero, Mark Foat, Andrew Fort, Mark Wells, Jenny Schmidt, Maile Grumm, Joe Paterno, Janey Paterno, Mark Mummy, Keri Haslebacher, Kaitlyn Haslebacher, Nate Fort
Organist, Classical Choir Director: Dr. Walter Krueger
Pianist, Contemporary Choir Director: Andrew Fort
Jazz Service: Marilyn Keller, George Mitchell, Ron Steen, Kevin Deitz
Spanish service: Francisco Aguirre, Carlos Guevara, Elvio Gonzalez, Jackeline Luna, Dora Reyna, Aranza and Miranda Aguirre

2022 Foundation Board	
Edward Running, <i>President</i>	Allen Brown, Jr.
Ansel Johnson, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nicole King
Linda Knudson	Pastor Mark Knutson

Pastoral Associates	
Rev. David Brownmiller	Rev. Anthony Lathan
Rev. Tom Campbell-Schmitt	Rev. Don Voeks
Rev. Patty Campbell-Schmitt	Rev. Sandy Walker
Rev. Gavin Dluhosh	Deaconess Julia Brown
Rev. Jake Jacobson	