



Augustana Lutheran Church

Good Newscaster March/April 2023 II Lent through IV Easter

**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

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross, there’s a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calvary’s mountain. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.”

As that great hymn reminds us we are in the season of Lent which will take us up to Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Celebration and Joy of Easter, which will quench our thirst in these challenging times!

The reality as we move fully into this deeply spiritual journey of the Lenten Season is that we know where the water is and where the food is as Martin Luther would say while so many of all ages do not. Depression, isolation, and hopelessness are some of the fruits of the pandemic. Being thirsty is difficult. But my siblings in Christ we have a precious gift to share with all people, we know where the water flows!

During this Lenten Journey our deeper needs are met and as those who know where the well is, it is upon us to share this good news of God’s amazing love with others in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the living water. May we be filled with hope and may we share the water of life with others who are thirsty!

The Annual Meeting took place virtually on Sunday, February 5th following an inspiring combined worship service. It was a wonderful celebration of the ministry we have been about with the power of Spirit. We gave thanks for the lives of the members who died this past year and joined the Host of Saints, for the baptisms, confirmations, new members, and weddings. We celebrated the completion of our Solar System. We thanked outgoing council members Robert Trimble, Todd Gienapp, and Wayne Reitz. Re-elected to Church Council for a second term

are Co-Presidents Susan and Ramona Neiman. Elected to the Church Council for first terms were Jeff Conner, Barbara Passolt-Pienero, and Mark Hoffman. We also thanked outgoing Foundation members Linda Knudson. Re-elected to the Foundation for a second term was Edward Running. Elected to the Foundation for her first term was Chris Grumm. We received many servant team reports as well as an excellent year of benevolences and a phenomenal year of giving as we passed a strong budget for 2023. The full 40 page report is available through the office.

Finally as you know, Joyce Kindschuh is retiring as our Augustana Office Manager and Executive Assistant after 27 years of incredible Servant Ministry where she helped to welcome the world and the neighborhood to Augustana. However, just like Venus Williams says, Joyce is not retiring. She is just evolving into a new exciting phase of life.

The celebration of Joyce’s ministry that was scheduled for Sunday March 12th at McMenamins Kennedy School as previously shared in an all congregation mailing, with RSVPs to date overflowing, has been postponed due to the death of James Reese, Thea Kindschuh’s partner of several years. We hold Thea, the Reese and the Kindschuh families in our prayers during this difficult time.

In Christ’s love and abundant grace,

Our annual Easter Brunch, hosted by the Property Committee, will be held in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, April 9th at 9am**. Bring the family to join us for ham, pancakes, refreshments, and a great time!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held **Sunday, April 9th during the Easter Brunch**. All children are welcome to join in on the fun! We are in need of volunteers for the hunt and donations for the Easter eggs. Contact Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu or the Church office for more information.

Volunteers are always welcome at Augustana! If you would like to donate your time to Augustana, see any programs/committees you would like to volunteer with, or just have a passion to serve, we would love to have you! Contact the individual listed in the respective program/committee, or the Augustana Church Office for more information. We can help direct you to where your interests and skills will be needed! Volunteers are a vital part of our church community, and are always greatly appreciated.

Sunday School and Confirmation News

We are in the season of Lent and Easter, when we prepare to celebrate the gift of new life through Jesus' sacrifice and Resurrection. We begin the season remembering the temptation that Jesus experienced in the wilderness, where he exercised his faith through fasting and prayer. During this time of year, we are reminded that Christ's love gives us new beginnings and that God's miracles and love are all around us. It is a time for gratitude, forgiveness, and hope.

Sunday school and confirmation classes have begun, and continue with the help of great leaders. 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.

The **annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Easter morning during the Easter brunch. All children are welcomed and encouraged to participate. **We are in need of volunteers to help with the hunt, as well as donations of plastic eggs and goodies to fill those eggs.** We strongly encourage those who are not parents of the children participating to graciously volunteer so that the parents can enjoy this time and build strong Easter memories with their children.

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.

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 was held on Saturday February 25th 2023. The conference was a great success with approximately 60+ attendees eager to hear from and ask questions of speakers involved with climate justice, sustainable energy, and more, including Oregon Senator Michael Dembrow, Technical Designer Nikolas Tucker, PGE's Sr. Construction Project Manager Mike Abel, and community resilience advocate Thea Kindschuh.

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*

Lift Every Voice Oregon is active in the state legislature this year with the implementation of Measure 114 and other bills. Legislative Advocacy Day is Tuesday, March 21st, 2023. Much more to come this month as things begin to move in the legislature.

Meet our new office and program staff on Sunday, March 19 after the 10:00am service from 11:15am-12:15pm with refreshments and great conversations with Denise Jacobs, Arlet Gremel, Kay Lowe, and Rachel Thompson.

Augustana Care of Creation Updates

The Care of Creation Team is being reinvigorated. We will hold a Zoom meeting later this month to discuss what projects we will take on this year.

Working together with the Property Committee, we plan to apply for a Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) mini grant. We will know on April 15th whether we are successful. If so, the

funds will be used to replace the old natural gas water heaters with high efficiency electric heat pump water heaters. This upgrade will reduce our use of fossil fuels and take another step on Augustana's journey to reach our goal of carbon net zero.

We are continuing our Styrofoam recycling program. You may drop it off under the Education Building stairwell where there is a sign. Please leave only the hard variety of Styrofoam, as "peanuts" and the soft type of foam cannot be recycled locally.

In-Person and Livestream Worship each Sunday at www.augustana.org

10:00 a.m. English

11:30 a.m. Spanish

Lenten Wednesday Night Gatherings every week with a 6:00pm potluck and Bible study, and 7:15-8:00pm hymn singing and Holden Vespers. All are welcome.

Sunday, March 5 II Lent

Gen 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 12 III Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 19 IV Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 26 V Lent

Ezek 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Sunday, April 2 Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-54
3:00pm Choir Cantata

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Seder Supper at 5:30pm (RSVP to Office)
In-person service at 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 7

In-person services 12 noon and 7:30pm

Sunday, April 9 Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Col 3:1-4; Matt 28:1-10

Sunday, April 16 II Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23 III Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30 IV Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

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

➔➔ **Church Council & Foundation Installations:** Church Council and Foundation members were installed on Sunday, February 26th, 2023. We look forward to their faithful service to the congregation and the community. **Please join us in congratulating all Church Council and Foundation members.** They can be found on page 4 of the Newscaster.

Augustana's office administrator Joyce Kindschuh has retired after 27 years of faithful service. The retirement party scheduled for March 12th will be postponed to a later date following the sudden and tragic death of James Reese, Thea Kindschuh's partner. We keep James, Thea, the Reese family, and the Kindschuh family in our prayers as they navigate through this difficult time together. We commend Joyce for her faithful service and dedication to Augustana.

Augustana's Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. All voices are welcome to join us! This year on Palm Sunday the combined choir will be offering a 3:00pm Cantata with guest section leaders from En Medio. Everyone who likes to sing can join from now through Easter. Practices are every Thursday night at 7:00pm under the direction of Dr. Walter Krueger. -Dr. Walter Krueger

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 typically meets in-person every first Wednesday at 7pm at McMenamin's (NE Broadway & 15th). We will not meet on March 1st, but we will resume on April 5th. 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 Halverson, 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 ...	his mom and family	Susan J.	Karen M., ovarian cancer	Linda S.'s niece Jessica
Thea K.	Lou C.	Scott J.	Joyce O.	Mark S.
The Reese Family	Rose C.	Azzree L.	Alice P., Elizabeth M.'s	Brent S.
The Kindschuh family	Cheryl D.	Rev. Anthony L.	mother	Sue VW
Roseta A.	Rebecca D.	Alena L.	Craig P.	Arlene W.
Colleen B.	Alison E.	Pat L., brain cancer	Fred S.	Miles W.
Beth B.	Paul F.	Grace M.	Virginia S., Jennifer F.'s	Mary J., Forrest J's
Bob B.	Pat G.	Scott M.	mother	daughter
Laurie B.'s grandson,	Ted H.	Joanne M.	Victor S.	Gay & Chuck M.

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating birthdays in March and April!	Bev W.	03/15	Trisha W.	04/05	Jami K.	04/22
	Don W.	03/17	Justin C.	04/06	Andrea C.	04/23
	Nikki H.	03/19	Elizabeth L.	04/07	Cheryl D.	04/23
	Scott J.	03/20	Raleigh S.	04/09	Deborah S.	04/23
Gay M.	Greg H.	03/21	Fred S.	04/10	Fiona T.	04/23
Maggie S.	LeAnne J.	03/25	Thomas C.	04/11	John T.	04/23
Elizabeth T.	Elizabeth M.	03/25	Sue B.	04/12	Lois F.	04/24
Michael H.	Michael L.	03/27	Lynn G.	04/12	Adam J.	04/24
Erika K.	Mary Anne T.	03/28	Elizabeth K.	04/14	Rebecca N.	04/24
Lisa M.	Kay L.	03/30	Steve L.	04/14	Jean H.	04/25
Mark H.	Denise G.	03/31	Bret W.	04/14	Joanne M.	04/25
Quin W.	Janice H.	04/02	William R.	04/16	Beverly N.	04/25
Kyle I.	Joaquin T.	04/02	Grace S.	04/17	Annali S.	04/25
Silas W.	Nicolas T.	04/02	Maya K.	04/18	Barbara C.	04/27
Dan B.	Madeleine D.	04/03	Lola C.	04/19	Grant H.	04/28
Glen J.	Nicole K.	04/04	Aaron K.	04/20	John W.	04/28
Richard N.	Oscar K.	04/04	Kelly N.	04/20	Bob B.	04/29
Tabor S.	Paul S.	04/05	David B.	04/21	Andrew K.	04/30
	Heidi S.	04/05	Sophie K.	04/22		

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. Assts: Arlet Gremel, Kay Lowe, Rachel Thompson
Gifts for Ministry: Jenny Schmidt
Education Coord:

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
Open Circle: Andrea Robideau

2023 Augustana Church Council

Ramona Nieman, <i>Co-President</i>	Sil Davis	Robert Morse
Susan Nieman, <i>Co-President</i>	Jeff Conner	Mark Hoffman
Lisa Wenzlick, <i>Vice President</i>	Rev. Anthony Lathan	Laurie Richardson
Lisa Joy Switalla, <i>Secretary</i>	Barbara Passolt-Pinero	Peggy Thatcher-Aguilu
Ken Petersen, <i>Treasurer</i>	Gay Mitchell	Diane Davis
Pastor Mark Knutson	Elizabeth Morse	

2023 Foundation Board

Edward Running, <i>President</i>	Allen Brown, Jr.
Ansel Johnson, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nicole King
Christine Grumm	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	