Help tackle hunger on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2! After 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship, Augustana’s youth will be available at entrances to collect your cash donations for ELCA World Hunger and the George Washington High School food bank. You can also put a special offering in the offering plate or donate online at www.augustanadenver.org.

Help meet or exceed last year’s Souper Bowl of Caring offering of $303 collected at Augustana! Thanks for supporting this youth-inspired, youth-led movement to tackle hunger in local communities during the weeks leading up to the biggest celebration in football, the Super Bowl.

Paint a bowl to support ELCA World Hunger and local food bank

Last year Augustana members and friends painted over 50 bowls that were auctioned off to support hunger relief efforts. The auction raised $1,000 for ELCA World Hunger. It was so fun, we’re doing it again!

Your opportunity to paint a bowl is Sunday, February 23, 9–10:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall, but let Shanna know by February 2 (shanna@augustanadenver.org), so she can have a bowl for you. This year the bowls will be auctioned on Sunday, March 15, to support ELCA World Hunger and the George Washington High School food bank.

Sponsored by Children, Youth and Family Ministry.
Recently lifted up in prayer

For hope and healing:
- Norm Aarestad, Minnie Carter, Mary Beth and Colin Cote-Jenssen, Madeline Fasano, Maria Guerra, Sandra Hagevik, Lisa Harmon, Lindsay Keyser, Karen Lambert, Albin Lamphere, Ken Maxwell, Mina Mayfield, Jan Montgomery, Phillip Nestingen, Joyce Oleson, Lynn Schull, Dick Schutt, DeLoyce Stroud, Kelley and Kathy

For comfort and courage:
- Paul Gilbertson in the death of his brother, Dr. Ernest Gilbertson
- Marianne Bovee and Mavis Tell in the death of their sister, Darlene Rutherford
- Family and friends of Rodger Miller in his death

Rejoice with

- Parents Julie Anderson DiMarcella and Chris DiMarcella and grandparents Ward and Cathy Anderson, in the birth of Caden Lewis DiMarcella, June 18, 2019
- Parents Madeline and Louis Fasano and grandparents Pastor Ann and Roger Loots in the birth of Theodore Vincent Fasano, December 17, 2019

Thank you for the gifts!

Augustana Early Learning Center
- In memory of Bev Strong

Memorial Garden
- In memory of Ruth and Michael Arden

Music Ministry
- In memory of Norman Olson

Special Gifts
- In memory of Ruth Swanson Arden, Frank and Curt Gerber, Bev Strong

Sunday Lunch
- In memory of Lillian Biddle

Thanks, Augustana!

Dear Ms. Cowee and the Augustana Foundation Gift Committee,

On behalf of the congregation of New Beginnings, thank you for your generous grant in the amount of $8,500 this past November. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Augustana has been a lifesaver to New Beginnings. When people heard that an anonymous donor was leading a drive to help us, the response was beyond our dreams.

Thank you all for faith in us. Thank you for your generosity.

Since receiving your gift, people continue to write to us asking how they too may be involved in the ministry. We have received checks from $5 to $5,000. People want to visit and pray for us. It is a beautiful response that has put the word “hope” on the hearts of all the women served by the ministry.

Thank you, Augustana.

In Christ,
Pastor Terry Schjang
Pastors

God in your story

I have a friend who is an author. After a career in marketing and after ghost writing for others, in 2018 she published her first novel, and her second book is slated to come out this summer. She is an astute observer of people, has a great sense of humor, and creates characters that stay with you.

Because I know a bit about her life, I know that she inserts some of her own life and experiences into her fiction. For instance, her first book included a baptism fiasco that was inspired by a real-life situation in which she, serving as a teenage acolyte, managed to set the pastor’s hymnal on fire . . .

Whether you choose to write about your life or not, we all have stories that have shaped us into who we are. Maybe the stories you would tell about your life are funny, or perhaps they are poignant. What people would figure prominently? How has Jesus been present in all that you’ve experienced?

Different seasons can give us space to reflect on our life and on our faith. During the season of Lent there will be multiple opportunities to do just that at Augustana. I encourage you to take advantage of all that will be offered, immersing yourself in the daily devotion, the book study, and giving to others. You can read more about all of those opportunities here in The Tower.

Your unique life is a gift from God who loves us. Take some time to discover more about your story.

Pastor Ann

Making room

I’m not sure when I first realized that February 2, 2020 fell on a Sunday. Whenever it was, giddiness ensued. February 2 is the seven-year anniversary of my ordination as a pastor and my installation as a pastor with Augustana. More significantly, it is also the annual date for the festival of Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas) on which we celebrate Jesus’ presentation in the temple along with the aging Simeon and prophet Anna (Luke 2:22–40). These were the Bible verses used during my ordination as well. Keeping Jesus at the center of that worship and any time we worship is kind of the main thing.

Making room for Jesus in the rest of life’s moments is more challenging for me. “Room” is my advent word for the church year. “Room in the inn” of me for Jesus, room for faith-family-friends-fitness, room for the concerns and joys of your hearts as we share conversation about them, room for breath and lightness of being . . . you get the picture. Just room. Every time I say the word, even silently, my lungs fill with a little more air.

As February begins, the light of Epiphany continues to shine through Sunday mornings, making room for joy and lightness of being—like Simeon and Anna who celebrate Jesus with joy and peace. Ash Wednesday brings February to a quieter close as we turn toward the cross of Jesus. I’m looking forward to both. Lent is a spaciousness of a different kind—quieter and deeper . . . roomier. Seven years after becoming your pastor, I continue to look forward to the journey with you.

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin
December 24, 2019

Dear Pastor Ann, Staff, Council, and Congregation,

I write this letter with mixed feelings of sadness, thankfulness, and quiet joy. After careful consideration and much prayer, I have come to a decision to resign my position as Minister of Music and Organist at Augustana Lutheran Church. After conversation and mutual agreement with Pastor Ann, my last day at Augustana will be on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

I came to Augustana in August of 1999, after a move to Denver in 1998, and as I have always said that God was at work in creating the path for me to work in such a musically rich congregation with an appreciation of excellent music, as is reflected in the fine Reuter organ and the choirs. In the beginning, working alongside Minister of Music Michael Shasberger proved to be an incredible seven years, as he was building a thriving music ministry. Also, appealing to me was that there was yet more to accomplish, especially in my area, as I formed and fostered the handbell choirs and the children and youth choirs. Today Augustana has four graded handbell choirs and three graded children/youth choirs to help lead in worship. Another creative and important interest in my ministry is the nurturing of young organists. I founded the Augustana Arts/Reuter National Undergraduate Organ Competition in 2000, and it became known as one of the premiere organ competitions in the U.S. After a magnificent seven-year run in partnership with the Reuter Organ Company and Augustana Arts, it remains the talk of competitions. Every one of those young organists now have remarkable church jobs and concert careers across the country. We, at Augustana, helped them put a feather in their cap and get that solid start. In addition, I have delighted in playing this grand organ, leading worship Sunday after Sunday, and branching out to share my love of performing in concert through solo recitals and collaborations with Stratus orchestra, other instrumentalists, and choirs. However, probably most meaningful, is planning for and playing for major life events—funerals and weddings. These moments of working with individuals and families to make “their service” meaningful to them has, in many ways, touched me most.

During my time at Augustana, it was never just a “job.” It was so much more than that. Augustana was never only a place where I ministered through music to a congregation, but it was a place where the congregation ministered to our family. When I joined the staff, we joined the church. Lauren was 4 and Austin was 7. They grew up here. They were in Sunday School, sang in choir, rang handbells, served as acolytes, were in youth group, were confirmed here, went on mission trips to China, Mexico, New Orleans, Egypt and Israel. You, this congregation, supported them financially and in prayer through all of this. They fostered lasting friendships here. In fact, Lauren’s best Augustana friends—all six of them—traveled to attend her wedding last summer! Ken has served on many committees. He sings in the choir. He has donated many hours to Augustana, especially as he cares about the facility and was the project manager for “Over the Top.” Ken and I have numerous friendships here, fostered through the years. In summary, we love Augustana. For all of this, I am thankful for my/our time in this place.
Yet, it is time to move on. After 20+ years serving in this congregation I have done what I can do. It is time for a change. It is time to pursue interests in furthering my established, professional career with creative extension and application in a broader capacity. I don’t exactly know how that will look, but I know that just as God opened a path to Augustana, he is at work now in this next chapter. So, as I said, it is with mixed feelings that I resign—with sadness to see this chapter close, with a thankful heart for all that Augustana has been to me and to my family, and it is with quiet joy that I reflect on what was and in anticipation for the future.

It seems most fitting to conclude with the words of that great Lutheran musician, J.S. Bach: “To God alone be the Glory!”

Cindy Lindeen-Martin

Music Ministry Search Committee

In order to respond to the changes in the music ministry at Augustana, the congregation council has appointed a search committee. This group’s task will be to look at the staffing of the positions of Music Minister, Chancel Choir Director, and Organist. In our congregation’s history, the positions have been combined in different ways, and the search committee will be researching the best way to staff our music ministry with excellent candidates.

The committee will be asking for input from the choir, music staff, and congregation members, so please respond when you are asked.

Members of the Search Committee are Margaret Aarestad, Brian Bernhard, Amy King, Tim Libby, Art Van Dyck, and Michael Graham as the congregation council representative. Pastor Ann and Pastor Caitlin will also participate. Please pray for this committee as they begin their work on behalf of Augustana.

Volunteer Ministry

Sunday bus driver retires

Join us Sunday, February 16, 9:15–10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, as we thank Emmett Cruson for his dedication to the Van Ministry. Emmett’s passion for helping others will be missed by those he drove to worship for many years.

Are you looking for a one-time ‘behind-the-scenes’ ministry project?

The Communion Ministry team needs your help!

We need someone to launder the towels that are used to wash and dry the communion items. This needs to be done only once a month.

If you want more information, please call Julie in Augustana’s office (303-388-4678).
Home Communion, February 16!

Home Communion kits will be blessed at both worship services on February 16 and taken to our home-centered members by volunteers using a liturgy written for home use. Please add to your prayers the communion visitors and receivers. Thank you to the people who are part of this vital ministry to the Augustana friends and members who cannot be at worship. Please call or e-mail Pastor Caitlin (pastor.caitlin.trussell@gmail.com or 303-388-4678) if you would like to receive home communion or if you would like to sign up as a communion visitor.

Faith Formation

Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

February 2: Pastor Caitlin will lead a conversation about Presentation of Our Lord including the scripture used during worship on Sunday. A lesser festival in the church year, Presentation of Our Lord (a.k.a. Candlemas) falls on a Sunday in 2020. (Perhaps of only slightly lesser significance, Groundhog Day shares the same date.) Jesus’ parents present him at the temple, and they encounter the elder Simeon and prophet Anna (Luke 2:22–40). Come, learn more, and deepen your worship experience.

February 9: Lent: What’s the point? Join Pastor Ann to learn more about the season of Lent, how it began and what it means to us today. We’ll also explore the worship services that bracket the beginning and the end of the season: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

February 16: In preparation for Ash Wednesday (February 26), Jean Gall and Don Troike lead a conversation and present a Rick Steves video spotlighting ELCA World Hunger. Rick Steves is best known for his travel guides. Did you know that he's also a Lutheran? As such, he has recently become a spokesperson for Lutherans and their work in the world helping communities gain independence from poverty rather than dependence on charity.

CROSS GEN FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, February 23, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Augustana’s Children, Youth and Family Ministry hosts a Cross Generational Faith Formation event for all of us of any age. Come join the fun of being together and having conversation across generations about life and the Bible.

During this time you can also paint a bowl to be auctioned off at the Empty Bowl Luncheon in March. Reserve a bowl to paint by contacting Shanna (shanna@augustanadenver.org) by February 2.

Discover Augustana Class for Newcomers!

Discover Augustana meets Sundays, February 2, 9 and 16, 9:15–10:15 a.m. in Room 11 (Education Wing). Bring your curiosity and have conversation with the pastors, hear about Augustana ministries, and consider joining the congregation. Sign up for Discover Augustana or ask questions about it by contacting Julie MacDougall in Augustana’s office (303-388-4678 or macdougall@augustanadenver.org).
Congregation Council

Sharing a poem of hope
As of the deadline for The Tower articles on January 9, there was a feeling of uneasiness and about the possible threat of trouble in the Middle East. As I was running one morning, listening to my music, one of my favorite “songs” played by John Denver. I thought it might be something that I could share with you as I felt hope hearing this again. You can find John reading the poem on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpO0IsTQSs0).

Twists and turns
I have been thinking a lot lately about changes and transitions and hope for the future throughout our lives. I retired from my work in Information Technology and Tech Support for Jefferson County Public Schools after 18 ½ years. My path was not as I imagined when I was 18 and graduating from Thomas Jefferson! My plan was to be a dentist, like my dad. The backup plan was, I would study Psychology like my mom did part-time while teaching middle school. So, Psychology it was (and I decided to double major in Sociology, too)! That didn’t pan out as I planned either.

Do you ever look back at your life’s path and think about the twists and turns? Were they what you expected? Did you turn down opportunities that, perhaps, you should have dug right into? What was it that helped you make your decision? Did your career or life take a turn that you didn’t expect, that you thought was the right move and maybe wasn’t? Overall, I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given.

Our paths may not be as we dream or believe they should be, but with guidance and prayer, we get to the right places. How did I get from my dreams of being a dentist to working in technology? Well, that is a story for another day.

Lisa Boe-Sims,
Congregation President

Notice of Congregational Meeting, February 23
Augustana will hold a congregational meeting, Sunday, February 23, 11:45 a.m., in Augustana’s sanctuary to receive year-end reports, vote on changes to Augustana’s governing documents, and recognize lay leaders who completed their elected terms.

Following the meeting, all are encouraged to enjoy Sunday Lunch in Fellowship Hall featuring sandwiches catered by Potbelly. A free will offering will be taken to offset the cost.

2019 Annual Reports
Financial reports are due to Finance Administrator Lisa Mikolajczak (lisa@augustanadenver.org) by Friday, January 31.

Ministry reports are due Sunday, February 9 to Publications Administrator Lyn Goodrum (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Contact Lisa and Lyn for forms and information. Completed reports will be available to the congregation on Sunday, February 16.
Lent

**Wondrous Love Daily Devotions for 2020**

Pick up your free copy at sanctuary entrances.

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Matthew with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

*Wondrous Love* explores Jesus’ journey from baptism to the cross and the empty tomb, as depicted in Matthew (the gospel focus for 2020, year A in the Revised Common Lectionary). Jesus predicts that he will be betrayed, arrested, abandoned, and put to death, yet he continues on to Jerusalem and the cross. The wondrous love shown by Jesus on this journey guides us on our baptismal journeys and inspires us to sing, serve, and share God’s love with others.

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**Ash Wednesday**

Augustana celebrates Ash Wednesday worship, February 26, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. in Augustana’s sanctuary. Both services will have Holy Communion and the opportunity to receive ashes. Following 11 a.m. worship, there will be lunch served in Fellowship Hall; prior to 7 p.m. worship, there will be a pancake supper.

**Ash Wednesday, February 26**

- 11 a.m. **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary
- Noon Monthly Luncheon - Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary

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**Come for mid-day worship on Ash Wednesday, and stay for lunch!**

Augustana’s February luncheon in Fellowship Hall will follow 11 a.m. Ash Wednesday worship on February 26. (Note that it is the last Wednesday in February.) Members, friends, visitors—senior or not—are welcome! For meal planning by our chef, Judy Nyquist, your reservation for lunch ($8/person) is needed at Augustana’s office (303-388-4678 or info@augustanadenver.org) by Monday, February 24. Hosted by Senior Ministry.

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**Pancake Supper to benefit Metro Caring**

Come to the 12th annual pancake supper, Ash Wednesday, February 26, 5:30–7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, featuring hot pancakes, syrup, sizzling sausage, and orange juice, coffee or tea. Suggested donation is $5 per adult; $3 per child; or $20 per family, payable at the door. Net proceeds will go to Metro Caring, a Denver agency which assists needy families with food and counseling. Augustana’s group of Thrivent Financial will serve the supper, featuring renowned pancake flipper Greg Bickle! A Thrivent Action Team request will provide $250. Reservations are recommended. Sign on the form below and place in the offering plate, or call Augustana’s office at 303-388-4678.

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Lent is spring training for Christians. It’s forty days to work on the basic practices of the faith. A time to stretch one’s faith muscles with new routines. If you’re not into sports metaphors, another way to think about this time of the year is to take a page from one of Marie Kondo’s books and get organized, i.e., spiritual spring cleaning—“create in me a clean heart, O God,” (Psalm 51).

If you are looking to deepen your prayer life and grow in faith, the following book is a helpful GPS (Gospel Positioning System) for you. If you want to talk with others about scripture and sacrament, this schedule of forums and conversations is just what you are looking for.

**The City is My Monastery by Richard Carter**

Richard Carter swapped a life of simplicity with an Anglican religious order in the Solomon Islands for parish ministry in one of London’s busiest churches, St Martin-in-the-Fields, where he serves as Associate Vicar for Mission. Seeing a need for monastic values in the center of the city, he founded the Nazareth Community. Rev. Carter shares the wisdom found in the daily life rooted in the Nazareth Community’s seven guiding principles: Silence, Service, Scripture, Sacrament, Sharing, Sabbath Time, and Staying.

Pick up a copy of the book from Canterbury Press or Amazon (also available on Kindle). Augustana’s office will have several hard copies for purchase, $18. The library will have a few copies as well. Subsidized books will be available in the office for $7 for those who would otherwise be hindered by the book’s cost.

Sundays March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: “The City is My Monastery” led by Sue Ann and Pastor Ron Glusenkamp.

- 9:15–10:15 a.m. Adult Forum, Anna Paulson Room
- Noon–1:15 p.m. Soup and Conversation, Anna Paulson Room

Whether or not you’re reading the book, come to one or both opportunities for highlights and conversation during Lent. Sue Ann is Augustana’s Faith Community Nurse. Her husband Ron has served as a congregational pastor and currently air-commutes nationally in his role with ELCA Churchwide in Chicago. They are both new Augustana members.

Additionally, there will be a Facebook group available with supplemental material as well as a separate, optional daily e-mail with content from Rev. Richard Carter.

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**Lenten Soup and Holden Evening Prayer Wednesdays in Lent**

All are invited to come together for a simple soup meal at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. in Christ Chapel, Wednesdays in Lent, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. This beautiful worship service and time of fellowship will help us shape this time of Lent as we journey together.

If you would like to help provide soup for the meals, please contact Julie MacDougall (macdougall@augustanadenver.org).
Write haiku about and during Lent!

Three lines about Lent
written in crisp haiku verse
by and for you all.

You’re invited to submit a haiku or two about Lent throughout the season of Lent. Your lines can be inspired by Lenten scripture, study, prayer, worship, experiences, impressions—anything at all about Lent.

Haiku is a 17-syllable verse form consisting of three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables—just like the first three lines of this article.

Anyone can write haiku, and we welcome submissions from folks of all ages. Submit your haiku online (www.augustanadenver.org), send them by e-mail (goodrum@augustanadenver.org), or write them legibly and submit them to Augustana’s office any time between Ash Wednesday, February 26 and Good Friday, April 10. Be sure to include your name, and if you are 18 or under, let us know your age. Haiku will be shared via Augustana’s printed and online publications.

Contact Pastor Caitlin (pastor.caitlin.trussell@gmail.com) or Publications Administrator Lyn Goodrum (goodrum@augustanadenver.org) if you have questions.

ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving are pillars of Lenten practice. Almsgiving is understood as sacrificial giving showing care to those in need. As you journey through Lent, consider the ways in which your own gifts to ELCA World Hunger can create hope throughout the world—helping communities gain independence from poverty through community partnerships in those areas.

Consider using a coin jar on your kitchen counter and setting a specific goal amount (such as $2/day or any amount that works for your household). You can give your gift in an envelope marked ELCA World Hunger during worship at the offering. Or give online at augustanadenver.org/giving and designate World Hunger.

Support the Lenten food drive

Augustana continues its tradition of helping stock the shelves of Metro Caring with a special food drive during Lent. Although Augustana’s people generously donate food items for Metro Caring throughout the year, special emphasis on caring for our community’s hungry is encouraged during Lent—almsgiving for the poor being one of the three classic disciplines in this season.

About Metro Caring

Metro Caring’s diverse approach to fighting hunger includes a fully stocked fresh-foods shopping market, healthy living and nutrition education, and tools and resources for self-sufficiency. Metro Caring is passionate about providing nutritious food to those who face economic hardships and helping them become self-reliant.

How to help those in need

Take the following list with you to the grocery store. Bring your food donations to the Metro Caring box located at the east sanctuary entrance between Ash Wednesday, February 26 and Easter, April 12. Thank you!

Suggested Shopping List:

- Shelf-stable milk/milk substitutes
- Canned beans
- Peanut butter
- Canned vegetables (with no or low sodium)
- Low-sodium canned soups
- Brown rice
- Nuts (unsalted)
- Whole-grain pasta
- Low-sodium canned stews
- Whole-grain, low-sugar cold cereals
- Canned tomatoes
- Dried fruits (no sugar added)
- Canned corn
- Canned tuna
- Dry beans
- Rolled oats
- Canned fruit (in juice, not in light or heavy syrup)
- Canned chicken
- Quinoa
- Seeds (unsalted)
- Low-sodium pasta sauce
- Popcorn kernels (not microwave popcorn)
- Unsweetened apple sauce
- Olive or canola oil
- Honey
- Chicken/beef/vegetable broths and stock

ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.
Health Ministry

Opportunity for good health no. 10

Augustana’s January Health Ministry article listed 12 signs of GOOD HEALTH in this New Year.

This month will focus on an opportunity to act upon good health sign no. 10:

**Compulsion to care for other people.**

Do you know about **Urban Servant Corps (USC)**? Urban Servant Corps is a one-year full-time Lutheran volunteer program in Denver. Volunteers commit to living in intentional community and embrace living simply while serving and accompanying those most in need at non-profit partner agencies in the heart of Denver. However, during 2019, Urban Servant Corps initiated a new opportunity for part-time volunteerism offered to retired folks seeking to provide meaningful community service. This article will introduce USC: Emeritus.

**USC: Emeritus**

“Matching the joy of freedom with the need for purpose.”

Urban Servant Corps is extending the current full-time volunteer service programs with a new focus called

**“Urban Servant Corps: Emeritus.”** This added focus responds to the continuing need for volunteer service at our non-profit partner sites and provides opportunities for volunteers to have purposeful community engagement during their encore years.

**Why choose USC: Emeritus?**

- Engage in meaningful volunteer service work as an outlet for your skills
- Meet, mentor, and connect with young and older adults involved in service
- Create community with others who share values of faith, service, and simplicity.
- Learn and share about social justice
- Keep your mind and body healthy and active
- Find meaningful conversations around faith and spirituality

For further information or to apply, visit http://www.urbanservantcorps.org/volunteer/emeritus.html, or call executive director **Krista** (303-894-0076).

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Nursing Notes from Sue Ann

#Heart#Love#AHAs#StarPower

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do, be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13

The season of Epiphany brings images of stars, magi, and gifts. To experience an epiphany can indicate a striking, possibly sudden, realization—an AHA moment perhaps. February is traditionally called heart month with Valentine’s Day observed in the middle of the month. What is the status of your heart health? Is your heart open to epiphanies? What do you see “in the stars”? As people of faith, we can walk confidently into our future with a heart wide open to ahas in our health and opportunities for sharing love. It is all quite interconnected. Healthy hearts freely gift oxygen-rich blood through our vessels. Open hearts and minds give pause to reflect on God’s messages of love seen in creation and other people. At the end of this month, on Ash Wednesday, the words of Psalm 51 pray “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Where do you see star power during this Epiphany season?

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my Heart.**

_I want to see you. I want to see you._

Paul Baloche ©1997

Stay well this day and pray,
Sue Ann, your FCN
Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Augustana’s CAN Ministry will host a Personal Care Kit collection Sunday, February 9 and 16. Please bring assembled care kits or items for care kits to labeled boxes in Augustana’s narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Include the following in each personal care kit:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended (see note following)
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

*Toothbrush multi-packs maybe used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

Some important guidelines to remember

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space, and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group’s name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

How to pack your kits of care:
Fold the towel in half widthwise. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so that nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.

Thank you!

Compassion and Action with Our Neighbors (CAN)

CAN Ministry meets Sunday, February 16, noon–1:30 p.m., in the Anna Paulson Room. All are welcome! The agenda includes planning for April/May, an update about Lent, an introduction to the benevolence budget distribution including current recipients, and other opportunities for Compassion and Action with our Neighbors. Questions? Contact co-chairs Laura Libby (laura.a.libby@gmail.com) or Casey King (kingfamily2003@gmail.com).
Faithful Thursdays, February 6 and 20

Noon to 1 p.m., Colorado State Capitol

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Colorado, Rocky Mountain Synod, is one of the coalition partners. Check it out with Pastor Caitlin and other Augustana friends as we show up in Compassion and Action with our Neighbors (CAN).

Faithful Thursdays is a diverse coalition of faith leaders, organizations and community members who are committed to human dignity and eradicating racism in public policy in Colorado.

RSVP for Faithful Thursdays here: https://www.faithfulthursdays.org/rsvp.

These multi-faith events take place throughout the 2020 legislative session either featuring specific legislation or forwarding a shared narrative of justice, love, healing, reconciliation, and care for the other.

The Faithful Thursdays conveners are:
• Colorado Catholic Conference
• Colorado Council of Churches
• Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
• Mile High Ministries
• Multicultural Mosaic Foundation
• Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council
• The Episcopal Church in Colorado
• The Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA
• Together Colorado

Colorado Lutheran Day at the Legislature 2020

• Thursday, February 27, 7:30 a.m.–noon (program begins 8 a.m.)
• Venue TBD (easy walking distance to the State Capitol)
• $15 regular, $5 student/low-income rate (hot breakfast/materials)
• Register at rmselca.org/legislature_day_2020
• Learn, listen and take action. Discover how you as a person of faith can advocate public policy, get the latest updates on our work together at the State Capitol, and be at the forefront of building relationships with your elected officials.
• Plan to come even (or especially) if you’ve never set foot in our State Capitol! The event includes Lobbying 101 training, an issues briefing, and remarks from Bishop Jim Gonia and a Colorado legislator (TBD).
• Discounted rate and scholarships are available. Request by e-mail to pseverson@rmselca.org, or call 303-777-6700.
• Parking downtown is in paid parking lots around the Capitol or metered street parking. Carpooling and/or public transit are encouraged!

Help support local foster families—volunteers needed!

FosterSource.org is a non-profit founded and directed by Augustana members Renee and Brian Bernhard. Foster Source hosts training sessions for foster families throughout the Denver metro area. Upcoming sessions at Augustana are on Saturday, February 29 and March 21, 8:30–11:45 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help with childcare. A quick, online background check is required. Families welcome! Other ways to help include preparing breakfast for the foster families, sponsoring or bringing the coffee, or donating general gift cards (Target, Walmart) for families who have new placements with current needs. Email Renee at info@fostersource.org to volunteer. Thank you for considering us!
Children, Youth, and Family

CROSS GEN FAITH FORMATION
Sunday, February 23, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall

If you do not want to paint a bowl (see cover), please still join us in Fellowship Hall for our time of Cross Gen Faith Formation! We will spend time in conversation, faith sharing, and prayer.

Pack Valentine’s Day boxes for college students

Parents of college students will meet to pack Valentine’s Day college care packages, Sunday, February 2, 9–10:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Please bring about 25 of whatever you choose—candy, microwave popcorn, packets of hot chocolate, granola bars, toys and trinkets—whatever you think a male or female college student would enjoy. If you can’t attend on February 2, please leave your treats in Augustana’s office, clearly labeled for the college students.

To update your child’s current mailing address at school, contact Augustana’s office (info@augustanadenver.org or 303-388-4678).

Questions may be directed to Joy Hawkins (Joy.Hawkins@ucdenver.edu or 303-915-7645).

Save the dates for VBS

Augustana Lutheran Church will host Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp Staff for a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School, July 13–17, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. each day. This week is open to all kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Cost will be $50 per child with a $100 family maximum. Watch Augustana’s publications and website for registration details.

Mother/Daughter Lunch
February 23

All moms (or grandmas, aunts, role models) and their 4th–8th grade girls are invited to Sunday Lunch in the Anna Paulson Room, February 23, noon–1 p.m. You can grab food from the Sunday Lunch in Fellowship Hall, and bring it over. We will spend our time talking about gritty and graceful women of the Bible. There is no cost, but an RSVP to Shanna (shanna@augustanadenver.org) by February 19 would be helpful.

Attention, Graduating Seniors

Are you a student or a parent of a student graduating from high school this year? We want to know! Each year we work hard not to miss anyone as we honor this milestone. Please email Shanna (shanna@augustanadenver.org) to let her know. Seniors will be recognized Sunday, April 26 during our Cross Gen Faith Formation, 9:15–10:15 a.m., as well as during 10:30 a.m. worship.
Ski/Winter weekend for youth in grades 5–12

March 6–8 we will be heading to the mountains for a time of winter activities, fellowship, and adventure. Skiing will be an option at Winter Park. Cost for this trip will depend on whether you ski/snowboard. The minimum price to attend is $50. Please sign up with your $50 deposit to Shanna (shanna@augustanadenver.org) by February 16.

Indulgences Bake Sale
Augustana’s youth will be selling baked goods between worship services and during Sunday lunch on February 23. Get some yummy sweet treats just before Lent begins! Your purchases support our youth retreats and mission trips.

Augustana Early Learning Center

Thanks to Don Troike
This month, the Augustana Early Learning Center Board celebrated long-time board member Don Troike’s last meeting with us. Under Don’s leadership as the AELC Board President for the last two years, the board hired Wendie Edwards (the center’s current director), increased the board’s membership to include two voting parent representatives and a teacher representative, and embarked on a long-needed strategic planning effort to help guide the learning center’s priorities through its 40th anniversary year in 2021 and beyond. This plan ties in with the strategic planning the church has been doing. Don has graciously volunteered to continue to assist with shepherding the learning center’s strategic plan.

Please join the board members, learning center staff, and families in thanking Don for his wise leadership and generous commitment to the AELC.

NOW ENROLLING!

Summer Camp
Augustana
303-388-7012
www.augustanadenver.org

Summer is coming to the Early Learning Center!

Even though it’s winter outside, planning for summer camp for preschool (3–5) and school age children (entering Kindergarten through age 12) is well underway in the Early Learning Center. During the summer, preschool children spend lots of time outside including in Augustana’s Fairy Garden, and go on weekly field trips, including to the Denver Zoo.

School age children participate in several field trips a week including hiking and other adventures. Some highlights planned for this summer include a trip to a Rockies game, the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Research Lab, and the Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery—along with swimming and hiking.

Interested in learning more? To get a brochure, contact Director Wendie Edwards (wendie@augustanadenver.org) or School Age Program Coordinator Shirley Koeller (shirley@augustanadenver.org).

The Early Learning Center also now has its own website. You can link to it from the Ministry page of Augustana’s website, or go directly to https://www.aelcdenver.org/.

Please join the board members, learning center staff, and families in thanking Don for his wise leadership and generous commitment to the AELC.
Property Corner

Plans for 2020

2020 is here, and your Property Committee and building staff have hit the ground running. While snow cleanup has kept us busy a couple of times, it really has been a beautiful winter. Speaking of snow cleanup, we have identified this as an area to attempt to bring more “in house.” Private costs for this are soaring at the same time dependability has been going down. Along those lines, please, we are currently looking for an old pick-up truck anyone is willing to donate and/or sell cheap. Contact Paul Blanchard (pm.blanchard@comcast.net or 303-903-2036).

The Capital Improvement Fund has been restocked by generous contributions from Merrill and Dorie Fie, Colleen Porterfield, The Augustana Foundation, Thrivent, and many others in our congregation. The Property Committee is so grateful for these gifts, as they allow us to execute a long-term plan for our wonderful campus.

The first project put into motion this year is the restoration of our lovely stone staircases leading to the narthex from the lower parking lot. We have done our best to keep these stairs and railings safe, but they need professional attention to be truly restored. The good news is the vast majority of the stone is still reusable and will be cleaned and reset. Replacement stone has been located from a Colorado source and will be used where necessary. (Similar stone from New Mexico and Arizona is known to deteriorate more quickly when used in our climate.)

We plan to issue contracts to update the AC and heating controls by early spring. The analysis has taken longer than hoped, but for the best and longest lasting end result, we have been researching the systems in detail. While comfort is a good thing, we also believe we will be able to save substantially on our energy usage.

Our “Landscape 2020” project is entering its third and final year. Look for new plantings, sprinkler control, and better general upkeep of our campus grounds as we close out this focused effort. With our renovated staircases, we better get those replacement trees in!

Peace,
The Property Team

Fellowship

February Book Group

Monday, February 17, 11:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

Our selection for February is *The Color of Water* by James McBride, who retraces his mother’s footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice, recreates her remarkable story. The daughter of a failed itinerant Orthodox rabbi, she was born Rachel Shilsky (actually Ruchel Dwara Zylska) in Poland on April 1, 1921. Fleeing pogroms, her family emigrated to America and ultimately settled in Suffolk, Virginia, a small town where anti-Semitism and racial tensions ran high. With candor and immediacy, Ruth describes her parents’ loveless marriage, her fragile, handicapped mother, her cruel, sexually-abusive father, and the rest of the family and life she abandoned.

Interspersed throughout his mother’s compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success. *The Color of Water* touches readers of all colors as a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a lyrical valentine to a mother from her son.
Women, Wine, and Word

This Bible study for women of all ages will meet Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m. The group is currently studying the book *What Is the Bible?* by Rob Bell. You don’t need a copy of the book to participate. Please contact Pastor Ann for the location of this month’s meeting (ann@augustanadenver.org).

Augustana Lutheran Church members receive a 50 percent discount on all tickets. Use the code ALC50 at checkout. Visit www.AugustanaArts.org for tickets.

Stratus Chamber Orchestra

Stratus Chamber Orchestra brings LOVE to the stage with *Serenade: Of Love & Enchantment*.

- Friday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. at First Plymouth Congregational Church (immersive seating)
- Saturday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. at Augustana (traditional seating)

The Serenade is the “music of the evening.” A lover sings below his/her lover’s open window, a violinist spins a tune to intertwine the hearts of the couple in the restaurant. However you picture it, the Serenade uses the language of love. Stratus’s serenade includes Canteloube’s *Songs of the Auvergne*, Strauss’s *Serenade for Winds*, and Johannes Brahms’s youthful and expansive *Serenade No. 1*.

Augustana Lutheran Church members receive a 50 percent discount on all tickets. Use the code ALC50 at checkout. Visit www.AugustanaArts.org for tickets.

Colcannon

Saturday, February 29, 7:30 p.m., at Augustana

Colcannon will fill Augustana’s sanctuary with authentic, Irish music—one of their FINAL concerts in Denver before members of the group move to Ireland. Colcannon has quite a following of music lovers with distinctive, inventive, and contemporary musical style while still keeping in firm touch with the heart and essence of traditional Irish music. Colcannon’s concerts are renowned for their energy, for singer/frontman Mick Bolger’s irrepressible sense of humor and sly wit, and, of course, for the music—music that expresses flights of joy, deep sorrows, and an unquenchable zest for life. Colcannon’s appeal crosses lines of age, gender and ethnic background. While the musical focus is on the beautiful wealth of traditional Irish music—all acoustic instrumentation, traditional as well as original tunes and songs, with some of the songs in Mick’s native Irish language—Colcannon’s true message is the story of the resilient and joyous human spirit.

Augustana Lutheran Church members receive a 50 percent discount on all tickets. Use the code ALC50 at checkout. Visit www.AugustanaArts.org for tickets.

Join us for the 2020 “A Musical Night in Vienna”

Heart for the Arts Gala returns to Augustana with a “Musical Night in Vienna,” Saturday, March 28 at 6 p.m. Live performances with Stratus and the CWC/CMC, which include famous waltzes and more, will fill Fellowship Hall. Great Austrian food and other goodies will make this annual fundraising event festive. Invitations are forthcoming. Mark your calendars today!

We are seeking donations for the Silent/Live Auctions, and your support is appreciated. We especially seek gift certificates to restaurants, performances, sporting events, etc., artwork, or other creative offerings. Email Lynn (lynn@augustanaarts.org) if you have a donation.
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<td>Transfiguration of Our Lord</td>
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### Additional Notes
- **Faith Formation**
- Jammin’ Augustana Super Sundays (JASS)
- Augustana Arts
- Stratus Chamber Orchestra
- “Serenade: Of Love & Enchantment”
Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word “love” occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

A. 200-300  
B. 400-500  
C. 600-700  
D. 800-900

Answer: C

Puzzle!

First, write the opposite of each listed word. Then transfer letters to the correct numbered blanks to discover Jesus’ messages about love.

A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

“Y___r__ my fr__nds__f
Y___d__wh__t__c__mm__n__d__…
Th_s_s my c__mm__n__d:
L_v__ch_th_r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command…” This is my command: love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV