

Responding faithfully to COVID-19



Editor's Note

You may be wondering why this issue of the Tower is coming to you through the USPS when you normally receive it electronically. Augustana's leaders and staff felt the information in this special edition was so important that they wished it to be delivered to your mailbox.

This issue primarily contains information on scheduling changes and how to stay connected and informed—and hopeful—despite the challenge of social distancing due to coronavirus, so read on, and watch both your mailbox and your inbox for news and updates.

Other articles that were originally submitted for the April Tower will be published in a later edition.

Thanks and blessings,
Lyn Goodrum
Publications Administrator



At the urging of our ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop, Jim Gonia, and the Centers for Disease Control, in-person worship services are being suspended until Sunday May 10. Obviously, if the situation changes for the better in terms of the COVID-19 virus, this can be reevaluated.

We are learning how to be the church together even though we can't be together in one space. So, we invite you to join us for these times of virtual devotion and worship.

We Are One at 1:00

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m., an Augustana staff member will be live on Facebook with a brief

continued next page

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Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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For information, email **Lyn Goodrum** (goodrum@augustanadenver.org).

Online Worship/Devotions
(<https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/> or www.augustanadenver.org)

- **Online Worship**, Sundays, 9 a.m.
- **We Are One at 1:00**, Online devotions, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m.

Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Congregation Council

President: Lisa Boe-Sims
Vice President: Dane Vierow
Secretary: Karen Yeager
Treasurer: Dan Taron
Renee Bernhard | Grace Blanchard
Emmett Cruson | Michael Gentes
Michael Graham | Nancy Johnson
Ellen Kastens | Sharon Schillereff
Pam Uyemura | Rosalee Wanchisen
Ogden Willoughby | Michael Zumwalt
Pr. Ann Hultquist | Pr. Caitlin Trussell

Staff

Ann Hultquist, Senior Pastor
Caitlin Trussell, Pastor
Lisa Mikolajczak,
Finance Administrator
Shanna VanderWel, Director of Youth
and Family Ministry
Valerie Taron, Children's Faith
Formation Coordinator
Angela Howard, Interim Chancel
Choir Director and Choristers and
Cantabile Director
Sue Ann Glusenkamp,
Faith Community Nurse
Lyn Goodrum,
Publications Administrator
Julie MacDougall, Volunteer Ministry
and Building Use
Asmir Hodzic,
Building and Grounds Manager
Andrija Malbasa and Antoine Hines,
Custodians
Ellen Kastens, Amy Tamminga,
Erin Saboe Willoughby, Wedding
Coordinators
Wendie Edwards, Director, Augustana
Early Learning Center

Responding faithfully to COVID-19

continued from cover

devotion. These will also be available to view later on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/>) and on our website (www.augustanadenver.org).

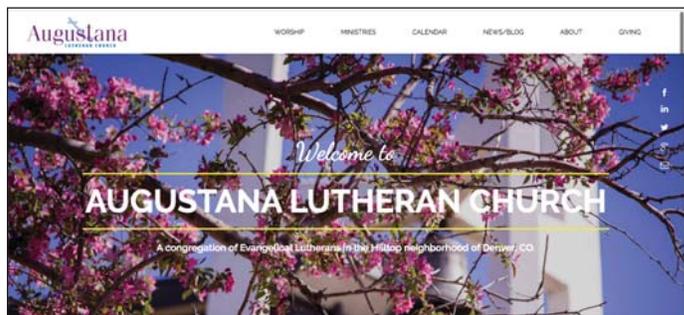
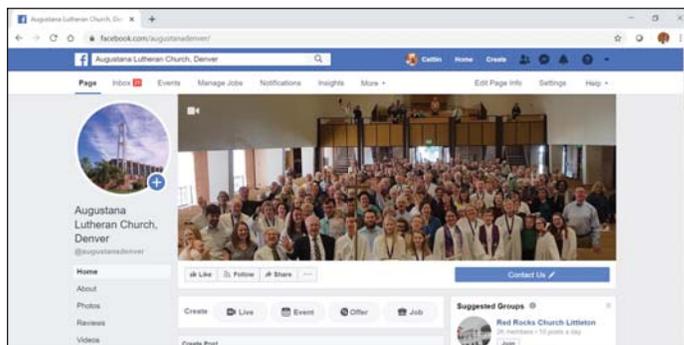
Sunday morning worship

Every Sunday, that week's sermon, prayers, and blessing will be posted by 9 a.m. to our Facebook page and also our website. This shorter service gives us a time to worship as a community online and hear the good news of Christ's love for us.

Offerings/Tithes

We want to encourage you to remember that Augustana's ministries will need your continued financial support now more than ever. You can always mail your offering to the church, make an online donation on our website (www.augustanadenver.org), or send a text message to 303-653-9592. Your first text message needs to include a dollar sign \$ and an amount. Then just follow the prompts to complete your gift.

Most meetings and activities held at the church are also cancelled. Call Augustana's office



(303-388-4678) if you have questions.

Stay up-to-date on all the news about Augustana by receiving the weekly e-Pistle and other important electronic communications from the church office. Sign up on our website (www.augustanadenver.org); click on the envelope icon to your right.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Ann, Pastor Caitlin, and Faith Community Nurse Sue Ann are available by phone or email. Hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices request that their staff chaplains support you at the bedside as they prohibit our access into

the facilities. This is a difficult reality and not ideal, but please call if your health situation changes for any reason so that we can support you by phone.

If you are on Facebook, "like" Augustana in order to see posts about the congregation and our life together.

Not a computer user?

Request US Postal Service-delivered copies of a mini bulletin and Augustana sermons by calling Augustana's office (303-388-4678).

Pastors

You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

Psalm 4:1



As I write this in mid-March, there is a great deal of distress and fear in our country and in our world regarding the COVID-19 virus. By the time you read this, the situation will likely have evolved as it seems to be doing that on a daily basis. Many of our

worship practices have changed for the time being in response to the virus. Daily life for many has changed as well, as we have learned new terms like “social distancing.”

Fear is a powerful force, and in crisis like these, it’s important to not let fear run rampant in our minds and in our communities. Instead, we can take logical, recommended steps to help ourselves and others. We can make sure that the most vulnerable in our congregation and in our neighborhoods are cared for. We can make sure that we continue to support and care for one another in whatever way we are able. And we can lean on and lean into our faith in God’s presence each day.

The psalm verse above paints a beautiful picture of God giving us time and space where we can lay our fears down and rest in God’s grace. We remember the ways Jesus entered into every human situation and how he has promised to be with us no matter where we find ourselves. This month we will celebrate Easter together, remembering the promise that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Whether we are able to be together in the sanctuary on that Easter day, or together in spirit, may we all know the joy and peace of that eternal promise.

Pastor Ann

Being the Church in Physical Distance



I am praying for you, and invite you to pray for our congregation. I do this often while visualizing the sanctuary and Christ Chapel and picturing your faces and families. It’s amazing to think that if all of the just

over 1,100 of us were together on a Sunday morning we would spill out down the halls and into the street—and that doesn’t even count our ongoing visitors and newcomers. Pray for them too! Visualizing our reality in this time of physical distancing for coronavirus is vital. We remain the church, still able to reassure each other and the world that God’s love is for us no matter what we do or don’t do. We remain valuable and beloved children of God regardless of our risk category for surviving a corona infection. The reactions and rhetoric during these times can make it harder to even remember God’s promises much less be reassured by them. Jesus speaks into our worry and fear:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

Jesus reassures us in scripture and also through each other as the body of Christ in the world. This means that our connections with each other are Holy-Spirit-infused even if they take place virtually or over the phone. So, in addition to praying for each other, please reach out to each other by phone, email, or Facebook messaging. Our eldest elders in the congregation can be challenged by social isolation in the best of times. Imagine how difficult physical distancing is for those of us labeled “high risk and vulnerable.” Be creative. Be gentle and generous. Be of good courage. Be the church, dear ones—for each other and for the world God so loves.

Peace,
Pastor Caitlin



Recently lifted up in prayer

For hope and healing:

- Carolyn Coble, Alma Flory, Peter Hatfield, Margaret Luntz, Charlotte Mitchell, Rob Stenman, Amelia Wilkins

For comfort and courage:

- Family and friends of Jayne Bowman in her death
- Lynn Veit in the death of her friend, Bill Davis
- Kent Mueller and family in the death of his wife, Elizabeth Izant

- Family and friends of Beverly Meek in her death
- Lynn Nestingen and family in the death of her husband, Philip Nestingen
- Dane Vierow in the death of his friend, Brandi Svoboda

Rejoice with

- Richard Dannelley in his baptism
- Vernon Dean Neu, son of Todd and Kara Neu, in his baptism

Thanks, Augustana!

Our thanks to the Augustana staff and members for their constant texts, emails, calls, prayers and expressions of love and concern during the five weeks of Norm’s hospitalization, and his subsequent death. During this very difficult time our family felt enveloped by that love and concern. It has meant the world to us.

The family of Norm Aarestad

Thank you for the gifts!

Augustana Foundation

- In memory of Cindy Brogren
- Senior Ministry**
- In memory of Eldon Hemmingsen
- Special Gifts**
- In memory of Cindy Brogren, PJ Espevig, Vern Nyby

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1pm We Are One at 1:00	3	4
5 9am Online Worship	6	7 1pm We Are One at 1:00	8	9 1pm We Are One at 1:00	10	11
12 9am Online Worship	13	14 1pm We Are One at 1:00	15	16 1pm We Are One at 1:00	17	18
19 9am Online Worship	20 11:15am Book Group	21 1pm We Are One at 1:00	22	23 1pm We Are One at 1:00	24	25
26 9am Online Worship	27	28 1pm We Are One at 1:00	29	30 1pm We Are One at 1:00		

Health Ministry

Nursing Notes from Sue Ann

#death#plague#thankful?#freedom

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

1 Corinthians 16:13

*Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 839

I love this hymn and remember my Father playing it on the piano and singing in his baritone voice. Hearing this hymn conjures up images of Thanksgiving feasts and happy blessed days. Besides a striking tune, what is most impressive is the history of when this hymn was written by German protestant Pastor Martin Rinkart in Eilenburg, Germany. Written in 1636 while The Thirty Years' War was raging, this pastor was conducting as many as 50 funerals a day. A severe plague and famine was taking many lives in the overcrowded walled city of Eilenburg.

Thankfulness amidst such conditions? Seriously?

Our faith may be challenged during these uncertain days of witnessing a pandemic spread across continents. Be sure to refer to our Augustana website for the latest updates on how Augustana is seeking to minimize exposure to COVID-19. And follow CDC guidelines.

Challenged to be grateful, you bet! Challenged to be thankful, indeed! Pastor Rinkart's hymn suggests a perspective of hope and resilience focusing on the wondrous things God has done. God is with us to guide us in these perplexing times. Sing it loud!

*O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
in this world and the next!*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 839

Stay well this day and pray,

Sue Ann, your FCN

9Health Fairs cancelled

The March Tower cover page was an excellent explanation of our 9Health Fair scheduled for April 27 and April 28. We regret to inform you that ALL SPRING 9Health Fairs are canceled.

This proactive step is to keep Colorado healthy amid the growing concerns of the public regarding the spreading COVID-19 virus.

We want to extend thanks to all who offered to volunteer at Augustana's 9Health Fair, and especially our leadership team who has already put in many planning hours.

9News and 9Health, with the assistance of their new 9Health expert, Dr. Payal Kohli, will be providing tools needed to take responsibility for your own health. There are many resources available at the 9Health website (<https://www.9healthfair.org/etools/>). Visit this website for mental health support, smoking cessation, and heart health, to name a few categories.

Augustana and Temple Emanuel will be sponsoring a 9Health Fair in the spring of 2021.

We hope you will stay well and minimize your risk of exposure by following the CDC guidelines.



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A purple banner with white clouds and water droplets on the left side. The word "APRIL" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below "APRIL", the word "Birthdays" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

APRIL Birthdays

1 Abigail Buchanan
Daniel Nimrod

2 Jim Apple
Laurance Johnson

3

4 Diane Foley

5 Earl Conrad
Ginny Kusek
Joe Lewis
Robert Reinert

6 Bradyn Burton
Joel Sigdestad
Sandra Simpson

7 Berit Backes
Jan Brown
Beverly Garvin
Isabelle Howard

8 Robert Miller
Kera Terwilliger

9 Elliot Herrboldt
Millie Motes

10 Brenda Bucklin
Michael Graham
Erin Williams-Vohs

11 AJ Atherton
Makyla Moody

12 Doug Boyd
Erin Brown
Liv Triplett

13 Alex Kah

14 David Gottenborg
Austin Martin

15 Maria Brotherston
Grant Lutz
Krista Walker

16 Kathryn Buol
Audrey Carroll
Vale Triplett

17

18 Karen Edeen
Dan Taron
Douglas Wittich

19 Wayne Arden
Ashley Ezpeleta
Alma Flory
Nancy Kall
Lesley Smith

20 Phyllis Ashliman
Matthew Beavers
Alex Tripp

21 Rachel Mangione

22 Christopher Carter
Betty Nyby

23 Jim Hytjan

24 Arvid Brekke
Cassandra Carter
James Vaughters

25 Randall Holmberg

26 Doug Ray
Anneliese Rohr

27 Wayne Olson
Nyla Pulley

28 Alanah Blair
William Crossen
Amber Schweitzer
Brian Willoughby

29 Christopher Lager

30 Malakai Cooper
Dick Larson
Thomas Miller

*If your name should
have been on this list
but wasn't, please call
Augustana's office (303-
388-4678).*