

The Augustanan

SURVEYING THE MINISTRY IN OUR LIVES

Fall 2005

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. Thanks Be to God!

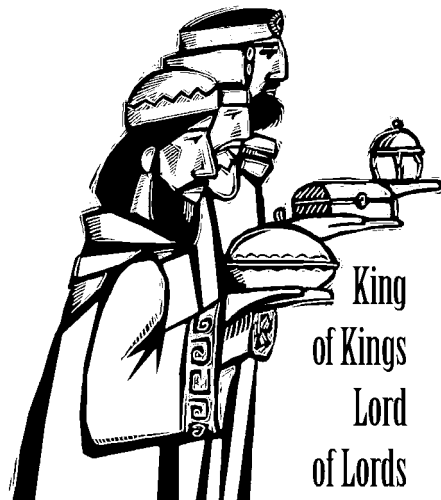
Mission Statement

It is the purpose of Augustana Lutheran Church to engage as many persons as will share its confession of faith in fellowship of worship, learning, witness, and service that the Word of God in Jesus Christ may become effective in our lives together and individually, and relate effectively in Christian concern and love to the geographic community within which the church is located.

A "Reconciled in Christ" congregation that has been racially diverse since 1954 and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

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From The Pastor's Desk

By *The Rev. Dr. Marcia Cox*

Looking ahead. Politicians look ahead for the date of the next elections to help them decide where to take a stand in the spectrum of the extremes on any given issue. Do we get out of Iraq? If so, when? How many?

Looking ahead. It's what parents do on behalf of their children; whether it's stocking the fridge so there will be something for the lunch bag or saving for continuing education or special event.

Looking ahead. It's what corporations do if they want to continue to make money.

And when politicians, parents, and/or corporations do not look ahead, they get caught having to make decisions they generally would rather not make.

People of faith look ahead with hope because we have thousands of pages and years of testimony that our God makes promises which our God intends to keep. God will follow through. Count on it. Celebrate it. Rejoice in it! Live it!

Looking ahead. It's what this congregation is doing in our strategic planning sessions. Join us in prayer for specifics and a call to faithfulness to bring God the glory rather than "success for Augustana". Join in prayer to call us to take personal responsibility rather than responding from guilt and/or failure to plan.

Looking ahead. Advent is a time for each of us to take a "spiritual assessment" (for lack of a better phrase) to discover the source of our motivation for living. One good way is to check the calendar and the checkbook. Where is it that we invest ourselves? And with whom?

It has been discovered that the last things people

remember on their deathbeds are among the first things people learn in life. What are the songs, jingles, verses memorized that will go through our heads when we can no longer see well enough to read or hear well enough to hear? Are they strong enough to carry us? Where will the financial investment of our lives go? Have we considered supporting this congregation and our ministries even after our death? Do we have a will? Do we have a living will?

Looking ahead takes intentionality with focused attention and faith. Looking ahead prevents 20/20 hindsight. Looking ahead is a tremendously faithful and appropriate Advent activity!

Given the news from the angels, Mary took all these things and pondered them in her heart... Looking ahead is biblical!

**FAITH IN ACTION
2005-2006
THANK YOU TO AUGUSTANA MEMBERS WHO HAVE PLEDGED THEIR
TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES
FOR 2006!**

Visionary Task Force Update

This Task Force was established by the Congregational Council in late October with the goal of developing a Visionary Action Plan for Augustana over the next three years. This plan will gather information from all members using many different techniques (ie written surveys, focus groups, one-on-one meetings, etc.), analyze and evaluate this information within the context of doing God's Will, and recommend a way forward for our Mission, Ministry, and Programs.

As the Task Force is establishing itself, GUIDING PRINCIPLES have been established by the group, which are:

- + *RESPECT Each Other's Values and Beliefs*
 - + *LISTEN to Each Other*
 - + *TRUST Each Other*
- + *OPEN our Hearts to New Ideas and Ways*
 - + *RECOGNIZE our Own Bias*
 - + *Be ACCOUNTABLE*
- + *COMMUNICATE Openly and Often*
 - + Ground Everything in PRAYER.

By the end of 2005, the defined Purpose of the Task Force, the Workplan and all of its related projects will be specifically laid out for the Congregation. The Goal is to engage EACH and EVERY member in this process so that we can all UNITE behind very measurable and attainable goals for Augustana and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Task Force members include Judi Bucci, Venera Busby, Catharine Cashner, Leeann Hart, Chuck Holmes, Doris Lewis, Alison Martin, Sid Stoltz, and Sonvy Waidler. The process is being facilitated by Dr. Sherman Hicks, Mission Director in the ELCA's Division for Outreach. Contact any of these members if you have any questions or concerns. It is anticipated that the Visionary Action Plan will be completed no later than June 30, 2006.

Sid Stoltz
Chair, Visionary Task Force

Attention Committee Chairs and Committee Leaders!
(and all who are interested)

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, January 7, 2006 10:00 Brunch

Stewardship will hold our Annual Winter meeting to share the compiled "time and talents" with each committee and discuss plans for 2006. Plan to join us! More details to follow...

Questions? Call Kaia Lenhart 202.329.8714

Augustana Calendar Items for December

Thursday, December 1, 2005
Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 – Choir Room

Sunday, December 4, 2005
Second Sunday of Advent
Adult Forum – 9:15 – Library
Worship Service – 10:30
Assessment Taskforce Meeting – Noon -- Library
All Committees Meet
Swedish Church Advent Service – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 8, 2005
Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 – Choir Room

Sunday, December 11, 2005
Third Sunday of Advent
Adult Forum – 9:15 – Library
Worship Service – 10:30
Spiritual Friends Meeting – Noon – Library
Vespers & Lucia Fest – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14, 2005
Congregational Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. – Library

Thursday, December 15, 2005
Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 – Choir Room

Sunday, December 18, 2005
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Adult Forum – 9:15 – Library
Worship Service – 10:30

Thursday, December 22, 2005
Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 – Choir Room

Saturday, December 24, 2005
Christmas Eve
Swedish Church Service – 3:00 p.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, 2005
Christmas Day
Worship Service – 10:30

Saturday, December 31, 2005
Capital Round Up New Year's Eve
Dance – 9:00 p.m.



December Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Alexandria Brown | 18 | Novella Bradley |
| 2 | Peter Berube, Scott McLaughlin | 24 | Mike Olson |
| 3 | Carol Kraemer | 28 | Kevin Canfield |
| 4 | Astri Sorenson | 30 | Deborah Johnson |
| 8 | Brian Danaher | | |
| 13 | Madeline Matson | | |
| 14 | Grace Morgan | | |
| 15 | Carroll Schipp | | |
| 17 | Rebecca Roth | | |

Ask The Pastor

By The Rev. Dr. Marcia Cox

Q: I saw in the bulletin a request for acolytes and tellers. What does one have to do to “sign up”? I’m not sure I could do it.

A: Thank you for asking! We are “known” for our formal worship with well-trained participants. The definition of a well-trained participant in liturgy is one who knows what to do and when to do it so one becomes “invisible” and the glory and focus in worship is on God and not the leader. Are you willing to make yourself invisible?

If you answered “yes” to the above question, here’s how it will happen for you.

a. Let us know when you are available to walk through and learn and we will see to it someone will lead you. (If you attend worship reasonably regularly, you will be surprised at how much you already know!)

b. After you have done the walk-through (which will make your actions blend in), you will be assigned a robe size (which will make your clothing invisible).

c. After you have the walk-through and the robe, then you will be scheduled and will receive that schedule. You will be a servant at God’s altar with others who have done it many times. Believe it or not, showing up in a timely fashion, ready to serve makes you far more invisible than running in during the announcements, or worse, not showing up at all.

We welcome people of ALL AGES to serve as Bookbearers, Crucifers, Thurifers, Torch-Bearers. The reason we can hold our traditional formal worship is because of you who have said by your

actions that this worship service in this tradition is important. We need more of you, not only to say it, but to volunteer.....please! “Liturgy” = “work of the people”.

The role of tellers is to count the offering that comes in the plate and through the mail. We also need people who are willing to serve in this capacity. We rotate teams of 3 so if we have 45 participants, one person would serve 2 Sundays per year. Tellers are also trained and taught about the form used for the various categories of offerings. Again....please! We need your commitment. You take your money seriously. Many of you take Augustana’s financial position seriously. Please assist us in our responsibility.

One more thought: I know the Time and Talent Sheets for '06 have been filled out and returned and are presently being collated. Even if you did not check off either acolyte or teller and would still like to serve, PLEASE CALL US ANYWAY! Don’t wait for someone to call you, promise?

Servants At God's Altar

Sunday, December 4, 2005

Second Sunday of Advent

Deacon I – Richard Gillam

Deacon II – Douglas Anderson

Lector – Arne Sorenson

Crucifer – Bonnie LePard

Bookbearer – Nelson Reed

Torchbearers – Kaia Lenhart, Jen Ray

Ushers – Alan Sutherland, Jay Castaño,

Jeff Teitel, John Shutt

Altar Guild – Alice Anderson, Salome Burton,

Marilynn Olson

Tellers – Bruce Reed, Jon Quam, Ruth Hunter

Hospitality Hour Host – Sonvy Waidler,

John McKirgan, Kathy Garrison

Sunday, December 11, 2005

Third Sunday of Advent

Deacon I – Patricia Richter

Deacon II – Jon Quam

Lector – Larry Anthony

Crucifer – Chuck Holmes

Bookbearer – Caroline Borders

Torchbearers – Kaia Lenhart, Jen Ray

Ushers – Alan Sutherland, Jay Castaño,

Jeff Teitel, John Shutt

Altar Guild – Alice Anderson,

Salome Burton, Marilynn Olson

Tellers – Peter Berube, John McKirgan

Hospitality Hour Host – Larry Anthony,

Ron Muller, Bruce Gaston

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Deacon I – Chuck Holmes

Deacon II – Rebecca Roth

Lector – Eileen Crawford

Crucifer – Douglas Anderson

Bookbearer – Chantelle Agbro

Torchbearers – Kane Borders, Nichole Wade

Ushers – Alan Sutherland, Jay Castaño,

Jeff Teitel, John Shutt

Altar Guild – Alice Anderson,

Salome Burton, Marilynn Olson

Tellers – Michael Olson, Salome Burton,

Ron Mueller

Hospitality Hour Host – Bonnie LePard & Bruce

Reed, Kathryn Baerwald, Betsy Knauff

Saturday, December 24, 2005

Christmas Eve

Deacon I – Kathy Garrison

Deacon II – George Kraffthofer

Lector – Judi Bucci

Crucifer – John Shutt

Thurifer – Chuck Holmes

Bookbearer – Doris Lewis

Torchbearers – David Juilfs, Patricia Richter

Ushers – Alan Sutherland, Jay Castaño,

Jeff Teitel, John Shutt

Altar Guild – Alice Anderson,

Salome Burton, Marilynn Olson

Tellers – Mary Schooley,

John Isbell, Dawn Nelson

Sunday, December 25, 2005

Christmas Day

Deacon I – Douglas Anderson

Deacon II – David Juilfs

Lector – Bob Anderson

Crucifer – Chuck Holmes

Bookbearer – Olivia Brown

Torchbearers – David Juilfs, Paul Beddoe

Ushers – Alan Sutherland, Jay Castaño,

Jeff Teitel, John Shutt

Altar Guild – Alice Anderson,

Salome Burton, Marilynn Olson

Tellers – Mary Schooley,

John Isbell, Dawn Nelson

Accessibility and Renovation Update

Work to complete our accessibility renovations unfortunately stalled during autumn due in part to the hospitalization and recuperation of Kfoury's on-site superintendent. Hopefully we are now on track for everything to be completed by the end of the year. As most of you have noticed (especially the ushers who have stood "guard duty"!) the hardware is still missing on the narthex bathroom door – and on some other doors as well. Other "punch list" items still to be completed include caulking around the outside doors to the atrium; finishings in the chapel; installation of a couple of missing doors on the ground floor; and additional minor items.

Many have said that the final phase of a construction project is the most difficult and contentious, and our project is no exception. Kfoury's project director and our architect have still not reached agreement on some of the change orders Kfoury has submitted. Our architect must sign off on them before payment is required. In addition, Kfoury's electrical subcontractor damaged some organ pipes last winter by going into the organ chamber to work on an electrical junction box, and we are demanding compensation for the damage. Further, two other subcontractors are demanding immediate payment for work they allege Kfoury has not yet compensated them for. The plan worked out at a meeting this week between our Building Committee, the architect, and the contractor is to hold a meeting sometime during December to work through all these contentious issues. Our legal counsel will join us for this meeting. Meanwhile, Kfoury's project director has been told to work full time on this project in order to complete all punch list items and to reach agreement with the architect on change orders. An encouraging sign is that there was agreement all around the table that everyone

concerned would like this project finished and all differences resolved before the beginning of 2006. Pray that this happens . . .

Of course, completion of the project does not mean the end of our financial commitment. Rather, our line of credit, for which we currently have simply been paying interest, is scheduled to turn into a 20-year mortgage as of January 1 requiring monthly payments of \$9,899. Our congregational leadership is well aware that this is a hefty and long-term financial burden for our congregation but feel the badly needed renovations to make our building accessible to all were well worth the financial sacrifice required of our members. We hope all will agree and will renew and upgrade pledges to meet this commitment. We must be able to meet our loan obligation of \$9,899 monthly wholly out of whatever we contribute for accessibility and renovation. The operating budget has no surplus to be used for this purpose. Again, please pray that we will all make the commitment required to meet this financial obligation.

And, if you don't know what to get a family member or friend for Christmas, consider a donation to the Accessibility and Renovation Fund in their honor. At hospitality hour during December special Christmas cards will be available that you can use to notify family or friend of your gift in their honor.

Carol Capps
Co-chair, Building Committee

Concerns of the People, Thank you, Mail Bag, Etc...

+ **Members:** Mary Andoh, Judi Bucci, Ardelle Burton, Celia Davenport, Dorothy Gladney, Susan Nash, Bill Reid, Carroll Schipp and Dorothy Smith.

+ **Friends and Family:** Roxanna Anderson (Nash); Roseanne Baird (Bucci); Chris Balsam (Bucci); Lillian Benning (Whoie); Trudy Bliss (Hunter); Ken and Leigh Anne Boynton (Gillam); Marcelo Fernandez (Castaño); Galana Gebisa; Leona Harper (Knauff); Dorothy Hunter (Hunter); Ray Hwang (Hwang); Warren Juggins (Burton); Darren Kerbyson (Waidler); John Larson (Kahler-Larson); Sylvia Luttamus; Celeste Lotts (Knauff); Delmar Nelson (Burton); Veronica Richardson (Knauff); Caleb Richter-Tate; Sarah Richter; Michael Rodriguez (Hanson/Kaiser); Steven Seaburn (Knauff); Anthony Sokenu & family (Richter); Charles Wagley (Capps); Marion Wagley (Capps); Ann Valentine

(Burton); Nellikan Wernicke (Baerwald); Cole Whiting (Bowers).

+ **In Christian Sympathy** for the family of Jeff Schwartz. *(We just received an email that Jeff's funeral was held on June 25th.)*

+ **In Christian Sympathy** with Eileen Crawford and family on the death of her husband Andress Taylor, whose memorial service was held here on Thursday, November 10th.

+ **Augustana and our vision for the future.**

+ **Thank you** to Salome Burton and Chuck Leath for preparing the mailing of our **Advent Devotional Booklets:**

+ **Thank you** to Josephine Allen, Novella Bradley, Carol Capps, Ruth Hunter and Carol Vezzetti for preparing the **November newsletter** for mailing.

+ **Thank you** to Josephine Allen, Alice Anderson, Novella Bradley, Carol Capps, Ruth Hunter, Marilynn Olson, Jon Quam, Patricia Richter and Carol Vezzetti for arranging and providing the luncheon following the Andress Taylor Memorial Service.

+ **Thank you** to Jon Quam for organizing and coordinating a lovely Stewardship Luncheon... special thanks to Alice Anderson and all members of Church Council for set-up, serving and clean-up!

+ **A tremendous "Thank You"** goes to David Wassum and Elizabeth Bruening for all their work in bringing a stunning new sign to our front yard.



Volunteers from Augustana provide food to homeless people on the first Saturday of every month. We are looking for people to help on January 7th and February 4th.

Please contact Amy Yergey at 301-294-9185 or ayergey@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Meet Augustana's Newest Members

By Jim Heinemeier

Jean, Jeanne & Jonathan Dilamh



- + live in Northeast,
- + like the people and the opportunities of the Metro area,
- + he is in stocks at National Wholesale, she is at the English Adult School at Sacred Heart, hoping to become a nurse,
- + if he were not doing what's he doing, he would be a pastor,
- + received their education in Africa,
- + heard about Augustana from a relative in Philadelphia,
- + love Augustana, especially how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached,
- + he likes to take care of their son, work around the house – and share the love of God,
- + their family is mostly in Africa.

Mari Dorn-Lopez



- + is from Walnut Creek CA, and has lived all over the world (her Dad was a contractor),
- + moved here this summer and lives in Dupont,
- + enjoys all the stuff going on in DC, including our public transportation,

- + Jean is from the Congo, Jeanne from Gabon. Jonathan was born in the USA,

- + did her undergrad work at U VA, majoring in political science and Spanish,
- + is a first-year law student at American University, and hopes to focus on human rights,
- + came to Augustana because her Dad's cousin, member Laura Gertz, invited her,
- + loves the music, friendly people and the open welcome at Augustana,
- + enjoys running, salsa dancing, sailing, visiting her parents in Denmark,
- + sailed across the Atlantic with her family in a 41-foot boat,
- + is passionate about helping Hispanic communities,
- + has a significant other, Franklin Turner, who attends with her.

Drew Genszler

- + is from Philadelphia and has spent much of his earlier life in Ohio,
- + is a PK (aka preacher's kid); his Dad pastors a church in Cleveland Heights OH,
- + came to DC as a student assistant/intern at the Library of Congress,



- + has worked at Lutheran Services in America here,
- + since this September is Director of Domestic Policy for the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs,
- + lives in Columbia Heights, but is seeking a more permanent rental situation,
- + loves the unique cosmopolitan, compact Metro

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area,
 + would be a pastor if he were not doing governmental affairs work (or maybe running a field office for Lutheran World Relief – from a sailboat!),
 + did his undergrad work at Wittenberg in Ohio, received the MDiv from Trinity Seminary, his STM from Gettysburg Seminary and spent four years at Oxford doing Christian Ethics studies,
 + came to Augustana because his brother Mark recommended it,
 + likes the sense of community at this church, and our history of racial integration,
 + enjoys camping, sailing and playing the guitar,
 + is interested in exploring the possibility of a folk liturgy at Augustana,
 + is passionate about justice growing organically out of the Gospel (instead of just coming out of a bureaucratic office at ELCA/Chicago),
 + his mother died just recently; “Her passion for justice is living on in my life!”

Dan & Leah Gilbert

+ he is from Swarthmore PA; she is from Cyrus MN,
 + he attended Bates in ME and law school at the University of Chicago; she graduated from St Olaf, and studied on a Fulbright in Berlin,
 + moved to the Dupont area a couple years ago,
 + now live in Clarendon, and enjoy the young, vibrant scene there,
 + met in a Russian Immersion Course at Middlebury College in VT where they only spoke Russian (!),
 + he is in his 1st year as a lawyer at White and Case;



she’s a PhD student at Georgetown, hoping to teach political science in some liberal arts college,
 + he attended Augustana in Chicago, where the pastor recommended our Augustana,
 + love the music and preaching at Augustana,
 + he enjoys movies (although as a first-year associate, he has little time); she like to read, sing and do dinner parties (again, little time),
 + they think you’d probably not guess they speak code to each other – in Russian (about us?),
 + her Dad is an ELCA pastor; his roots are in the Jewish community.

Jeanne Lowe

+ is from New Jersey and has lived mostly in the Northeastern USA,
 + lives in South Arlington and has been in the area since 1996,
 + teaches piano in her home studio,
 + has attended Valparaiso in Indiana, Montclair State in New Jersey, Union Theological Seminary and Notre Dame,
 + served as supply pastor at Augustana during our pastor’s absence in 2003,
 + loves the liturgy and music at Augustana, and feels the members are friendly,
 + has most recently been reading Kierkegaard, Umberto Eco, Thomas Friedman, Francine Gray, Anne Applebaum, Margaret Atwood and Barack Obama (!),
 + is passionate about justice and environmental issues, and educational opportunities in the arts for the disadvantaged.



Eulah Sobers



- + is from Guyana, S America, having come here in 1973,
- + has two sisters in Guyana,
- + lives in Hyattsville,
- + finds the area getting too crowded,
- + retired in 1992 as a nurse's assistant, having worked at Sibley Memorial for 15 years,
- + got her training at the Medical Arts Training School at the Washington House on 16th,
- + likes to help with programs like Martha's Table,
- + lived with her daughter Joy Stancil,
- + enjoys the family feeling at Augustana,
- + has a collection of over 50 dolls from all over the world,
- + is very concerned about children coming home from school to an empty house,
- + has six children, 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren (with # eight on the way), and rejoices that most of her family is close by!

John Strackbein



- + is from Lexington NB,
- + moved to Metro DC in June 2005,
- + lives in the Powderhill Village neighborhood of Beltsville,
- + enjoys the larger city, with more people, more things to do, and more of an active gay community,
- + works at Georgetown University Hospital as a Chaplain-in-Residence,
- + is working on his Clinical Pastoral Education certificate,
- + hopes to be ordained, preferably in the ELCA,
- + attended Bethany College in Lindsborg KS and Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque,
- + was invited to Augustana by Philip Assis,
- + likes the Augustana aesthetics, the community, Pr Cox, and the church's strong sense of tradition,
- + enjoys computers, audiovisuals, cooking, the theater, movies and drama,
- + feels passionate about gay ministry with sexual minority communities, social justice and politics.

The Stewardship Committee is exploring transportation service for our members who need transportation to church.

Please contact Kaia Lenhart or Salome Burton if you have ideas or would like to become involved.

Each Year on All Saints Sunday we recognize those Augustana Members who have died this past year. This year that list was as follows:

“For all the saints who from their labors rest ...”

Barbara Hailstorks - October 4, 1933 – December 14, 2004
Anders Gunnar Johanson - October 5, 1924 – December 22, 2004
Roland A. Anderson - September 24, 1907 – February 28, 2005
Floyd E. Anderson - October 5, 1917 – March 24, 2005
Gregory B. Elftman - October 27, 1946 – July 4, 2005
Alice V. Bryant - January 28, 1916 – September 18, 2005

Additionally we remember friends and family who have departed this past year.

+ In the Joy of the Resurrection, we celebrate with those saints who have entered the Church Triumphant this year:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Berube | Mother of Peter Berube |
| Fred Bowell, Sr. | Father of Fred Bowell, Jr. |
| Raymond Bowers | Father of Kelly Bowers |
| Lucy Nell Buchanan | Grandmother of Sarah Buchanan |
| Sophia Munson Dow | Grandmother of Sonja Kahler |
| Barbara Genszler | Mother of Drew Genszler |
| Russ Henry | Friend of David Julifs |
| Glenice Holmes | Mother of Chuck Holmes |
| Marion Johnson | Brother of Mary Andoh |
| Amy Sutherland Kimball | Niece of Alan Sutherland |
| Liana Dimetrinova Luchanskaya | Mother-In-Law of Chris Liljenstople |
| Robert Margrave | Husband of Ingrid Margrave |
| Sylvia Markey | Grandmother of Judi Bucci |
| Vicki Middlebrooks | Friend of Bill Riggs |
| Bernadette Moore | Grandmother of Jonathan Moore |
| Craig Patterson | Friend of Salome & Ardelle Burton |
| Eleanor Roberts | Sister of Celia Davenport |
| Netha Tinson | Aunt of Mary Andoh |
| Maya Krim Schwartz | Friend of Kathryn Baerwald |
| Carol Willeke | Former Member |
| Clinton Wills | Friend of Alan Fox |

Social Ministries: Making Peace, Celebrating Families

The Social Ministries Committee (or “SMC” for short) continues its “Monthly Ministries” program as the year 2005 draws to a close and we welcome 2006. The Monthly Ministries program is one way that Augustana highlights a specific mission or need “one month at a time.”

December is dedicated to the ministry of **PEACE**. We hear of bombings and terrorism every day. US troops are now deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and can go to other hot spots at a moment’s notice. We mourn the death of over 2,000 American soldiers, while we wonder why there are no accurate figures for the number of Iraqis and Afghans who have died. Estimates range from over 12,000 to 30,000 Iraqi deaths. And how many more wounded?

Suddenly, into this world, comes Jesus. At Christmas, we proclaim “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will!” We remember Jesus’s words, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” What does it mean to “make” peace?

One way of peace is through SMC’s attention to the hungry and needy of our community, as you: (i) volunteer to be a team member at **MARTHA’S TABLE** on January 7th; (ii) continue to **COLLECT FOOD DONATIONS** at church; (iii) buy or sell “**GIFTS OF HOPE**” at hospitality time, instead of gift certificates to fancy stores; and (iv) distribute **CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS** on December 17.

On another level, we can seek a better understanding of peace, and of war. Are Christians called to “keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering” and to overcome evil with good, as our theologian Bonhoeffer wrote? Join with SMC when we watch a **FILM ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ**, followed by a discussion of issues that challenge us, at a date to be announced in the bulletin. You can also reach soldiers, some here in our hospitals and others far overseas, with our thoughts and prayers through **GREETING CARDS** offered at

hospitality time in December.

January is dedicated to **FAMILY MINISTRY**. Some churches celebrate a special “Feast of the Holy Family” soon after Christmas. At Augustana, since every family is holy, we can celebrate the Feast all month long!

Check the bulletin for announcements about a special fiesta on January 8, when all of us “kids” plan to welcome Epiphany (a.k.a. “**EL DÍA DE LOS REYES**”) with Iglesia Santa Maria and the Swedish church. On January 22, Social Ministries and the Christian Education Committee will co-sponsor a **PANEL DISCUSSION** during Adult Forum, starting at 9:15 a.m. (with child care available in the nursery). Come hear what it means for each and every family to be “holy,” according to representatives of family service organizations and some of our own Augustana moms and pops. Wrestle with these issues:

- Does it take a village to raise a child? If yes, who’s a part of the village, and who’s not? Or, is child-rearing really a job solely for the immediate family?
- What role should a congregation play in the “village” or the “family”?
- Does Augustana engage in family ministry, and could we do more? How?
- Do families engage in Augustana, and can they do more? How?

These questions and more will be up for debate and exploration, so plan to attend.

Finally, on January 29th, it’s **RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY**. Augustana is a Reconciling in Christ congregation where “people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation,” just as in the life of any family. Families can make a very wide, welcoming circle indeed.

Brian Danaher
Chair, Social Ministries Committee

Images of the Season - Autumn

You can tell it is Advent when it is blue in church. Dressing the altar, pulpit, and the pastor's neck in green would be as big a fashion faux pas as wearing yellow seersucker in a Minnesota winter. We begin the year not with New Year's resolutions or talk of a fresh start disconnected from the past. We begin the year by talking about endings. So in Advent not only do we wear blue, but we also sing the blues. The blues are about endings. Bobby "Blue" Bland sings, "Without a warning, you broke my heart. You took it, shook it; you tore it apart. You left me sitting in the dark crying. You said your love for me was dying." The blues are about endings.

The Advent blues are about an ending: a big implosion to match the big bang by which the creation began. That theme sounds in the Advent readings. It is also a day of reckoning when the Son of Man comes with the clouds to settle all accounts. It is a day such as the day would be if all the credit offers we've accepted were to come due on the same day. Think of the offers advertised on TV. Buy rooms full of furniture, no payments until June of 2006. Throw in some new carpet and window treatments. Buy now; pay later. Low-interest student loan. Repayment deferred until you get that big-paying job after graduation. A zero-interest new car loan. There will never be a deal like this again. It's a steal. You need it now. Do you feel a blues song coming on? "I took it on credit. I lived without a care. I had coins in my pocket, money to spare. But now all those loans have come due. What am I gonna do?" So will be the day of reckoning when the Son of Man comes with the clouds. What are we gonna do?

This whole analogy is built on the notion that it is God who extends us credit. Indeed, we are indebted to God, but not because God has given us "credit" for sinning. Credit is essentially

what faith is. The Latin word is *credo*. It means "I believe." From *credo* we get both *creed* and *credit*. Someone extends credit to us based on that person's faith in us that we will pay up.

In the Advent 2002 "Crossings" newsletter, Todd Murken adopted the language of the marketplace to talk about Jesus' IPO, his initial public offering of resurrection. Based on that IPO, Murken says, we have extended credit to Jesus. We have placed our faith in him. We have his word that he will make good on his promise. He also knows us, how our willingness to extend credit might depend on something tangible, so he gives us baptism and eucharist as promissory notes. Paul talks about them as down payments, some earnest money that Jesus will fulfill his promise. So, when this Son of Man comes with the clouds, "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

The Advent blues are about endings. They are also about hope. Bobby Bland changes key and from "your love for me was dying" he launches into a song of hopeful yearning: "Turn on your light. Turn on your love light. Let it shine, shine, shine on me." The Advent blues are about endings and hopeful yearning. When the Son of Man comes with the clouds, stand up, lift up your heads, your redemption is at hand.

On that day we either rise from the grave or push open our screen door and step out on our front porch to meet him, depending on what time of year he makes his advent. That we begin a new year talking about endings provides a clue about our attitude toward the end. We are looking at an ending that is a new beginning. In this new creation all our losses are made good: the loss of those we love, the time that is closing in on us, the loss that comes with illness--you name it, what

con't on p. 15

con't from p. 14

ever is behind the empty feeling that comes upon you that has you singing the blues.

Jesus' crucifixion, that ending, is the winnowing in which the stuff of our lives is lifted by the harvester's pitchfork so that the wind might blow away the chaff and the grain fall back to the ground to be saved. Jesus' crucifixion is the refiner's fire burning away the dross of our lives. His crucifixion is the farmer's harrow breaking up the hard soil of our hearts to make them hospitable places for Jesus. He makes us fitting dance partners so we follow his lead into the new creation.

Singing the Advent blues moves us to dance the Advent two-step of yearning and hope. They orient us toward the coming kingdom of God. Practice the rhythm we hear in sacred story, baptism, and eucharist. Stick with your dance

partners in the community of faith. And do your part to help one another stay in step with the new creation dance. Dance it in the midst of a world bent on other rhythms, mostly of destruction. Show them new possibilities, the new creation promise. Lead them to make the investment, and extend the credit that is faith in Jesus, who at his advent makes good on all our losses.

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The Moms 'n' Pops group for families of young children meets two Friday mornings a month for play and fellowship. We have a lively group of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, and we always welcome visitors and friends! In December, we will meet on Friday the 9th and Friday the 16th, at 10:00 am. (We usually meet the second and fourth Fridays of the month, but we'll meet earlier this month because of Christmas.) Stay tuned for our destinations -- we will probably meet at a member's home one day, and go on an outing the other day.

In January, we will meet on the 13th and 27th. In addition, a Three Kings party is planned for Sunday, January 8, to celebrate Epiphany. Anyone in the Augustana family is warmly welcome to attend!

Synod and Churchwide News

TIPS FOR YOUR WELLNESS JOURNEY

When is a fever cause for alarm? What do you do for your child when he has an earache? What should you do if your mother is experiencing chest pain? Answers to handling these common health problems can be found in the First-Aid Guide at www.elcaforwellness.org. Learn self-care techniques for everything from bumps and bruises to allergic reactions, and when you should seek medical help.

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BISHOPS URGE STOP TO BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Saying they are “religious leaders seeking justice for millions of vulnerable and dispossessed people in our nation,” 52 bishops representing synods of the ELCA wrote to the U.S. Congress urging members to oppose attempts to move forward on budget reconciliation measures Congress is considering. Copies of the letter were delivered Oct. 12 to members of Congress. See www.elca.org/advocacy to read the full letter.

This year’s federal budget resolution binds Congress to reconcile or cut mandatory or “entitlement” programs by \$35 billion, said Karen Vagley, director, Lutheran Office of Governmental Affairs, in remarks to the recent ELCA Conference of Bishops meeting Sept. 29-Oct. 3. The Gulf Coast hurricane disasters and its consequences have added pressure to stop the reconciliation process for this year, because the programs to be cut are an important part of the disaster relief services that are needed, she said. Examples of programs to be cut in the reconcili-

ation process cited by the bishops included Food Stamps, Medicaid, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

The synod bishops’ letter follows a similar request from Presiding Bishop Hanson, who joined with four other U.S. religious leaders Sept. 13 urging Congress to stop the 2006 federal budget reconciliation process.

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TOGETHER IN MISSION EVENT

Together in Mission (TIM), the annual, synod-wide event hosted by the Division for Congregational Life, will be held Sat., Jan. 21st from 9 A.M.-2 P.M. at Abiding Presence in Burke, Virg. The event is held in support of a component of the ELCA’s evangelism strategy, to prepare and renew evangelical leaders. Dr. He Qi, current artist-in-residence at Yale Theological Seminary, will speak and display some of his artwork at the event, among other TIM presenters. Cost is \$20/person including lunch. Contact Kari Olsen of the synod office to register at kolsen@metrodcelca.org.

Augustana Bids Pastor Cruz Farewell

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am writing to let you, the English-speaking congregation, know that Pastor Leonel Cruz has accepted a call to a developing congregation in northern Philadelphia. He gave notice to his Santa Maria congregation here this past Sunday that his last day will be Sunday, December 4th.

Pastor Cruz began his call here in 1991 as part of the staff of Augustana to develop a Latino ministry in this area of tremendous growth in our Spanish-speaking neighborhoods. In February 2001, the congregation of Santa Maria was founded as a mission of the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the Metro Washington D.C. Synod. Pastor Cruz has done faithful work in the past 14 years to help bring this congregation to this point in ministry and he moves ahead to new challenges in a new situation. The Office of the

Bishop will be providing pastoral care and leadership for Santa Maria as it moves through the study process for a new pastor.

His wife, Rosario Hernandez, will remain here in their home for a little longer as she finishes her seminary work and work with the candidacy committee to become ordained.

We bid Pastor Cruz farewell and Godspeed in his new call and give thanks for his years of service here at Augustana. You may write to him here and/or call him at 202/462-3237 to express your thoughts and good wishes.

*In Christ,
Pastor Cox*

Gifts for the Christ Child

During Epiphany, we remember the gifts the Magi brought to the Infant King. At Augustana this year, we have an opportunity to honor the Christ Child by giving to those little ones in our community with real needs, right now.

The Turning Point Center for Women and Children is located just a few blocks north of Augustana. Their mission is "to break the cycle of chronic homelessness and joblessness by offering an environment which will prepare women and their families for independent living." Mothers between the ages of 18 and 30 live at the center with their children for up to two years, while preparing for careers and learning to be the best parents that they can be.

A gift of any size will be appreciated!

We can help with ongoing needs for:

Diapers, any size
Baby Wipes
Infant Formula
Baby Clothes, any size
Sippy Cups (toddler cups)

Do you feel you could help with a larger gift? There are special needs for car seats and strollers.

Gifts for the Christ Child will be collected at worship services on Sundays, January 22 and 29.

Contact Sonvy Waidler with any questions at 301-762-1879 or sonvy@yahoo.com.

The Turning Point Center
1434 Harvard Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

The Turning Point Center is a mission of the Salvation Army.

Calendar Observances - Advent

Wednesday, November 30

Andrew, apostle

Andrew was the first of the Twelve. He is known as a fisherman who left his net to follow Jesus. As a part of his calling, he brought other people, including Simon Peter, to meet Jesus. The Byzantine church honors Andrew as its patron and points out that because he was the first of Jesus' followers, he was, in the words of John Chrysostom, "the Peter before Peter." Together with Philip, Andrew leads a number of Greeks to speak with Jesus, and it is Andrew who shows Jesus a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew is said to have died on a cross saltire, an X-shaped cross.

Saturday, December 3

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia (1506–1552)

Francis Xavier (sayv-yehr) was born in the Basque region of northern Spain. Francis's native Basque language is unrelated to any other, and Francis admitted that learning languages was difficult for him. Despite this obstacle he became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. At each point he learned the local language and, like Martin Luther, wrote catechisms for the instruction of new converts. Another obstacle Francis overcame to accomplish his mission work was a propensity to seasickness. All his travels to the Far East were by boat. Together with Ignatius Loyola and five others, Francis formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spoke out against the Spanish and Portuguese colonists when he discovered their oppression of the indigenous people to whom he was sent as a missionary.

Sunday, December 4

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter (c. 676–c. 749)

Born to a wealthy family in Damascus and well

educated, John left a career in finance and government to become a monk in an abbey near Jerusalem. He wrote many hymns as well as theological works. Foremost among the latter is a work called *The Fount of Wisdom*, which touches on philosophy, heresy, and the orthodox faith. This summary of patristic theology remained influential for centuries.

Tuesday, December 6

Nicholas, bishop of Myra (d. c. 342)

Though Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints, little is known about his life. In the fourth century he was a bishop in what is now Turkey. Legends that surround Nicholas tell of his love for God and neighbor, especially the poor. One famous story tells of Nicholas secretly giving bags of gold to the three daughters of a father who was going to sell them into prostitution because he could not provide dowries for them. Nicholas has become a symbol of anonymous gift giving.

Wednesday, December 7

Ambrose, bishop of Milan (c. 339–397)

Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated a bishop all on the same day. While bishop he gave away his wealth and lived in simplicity. He was a famous preacher and is largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is also well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn.

Tuesday, December 13

Lucy, martyr (d. 304)

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Apparently she had decided to devote her life to God and her possessions to the poor. Beyond that, however, little is known for certain about Lucy. However, her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means “light”) originally fell on the shortest day of the year. A tradition arose of a girl in the household, wearing a crown of candles, bringing saffron rolls to her family early in the morning on the day of Lucia.

Wednesday, December 14

John of the Cross, renewer of the church (1542–1591)

John was a monk of the Carmelite religious order who met Teresa of Ávila when she was working to reform the Carmelite Order and return it to a stricter observance of its rules. He followed Teresa’s lead and encouraged others to follow her reform. He was imprisoned when he encountered opposition to the reform. His writings, like Teresa’s, reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation. In one of John’s poems, “The Spiritual Canticle,” he cried, “Oh, that my griefs would end! Come, grant me thy fruition full and free!”

Tuesday, December 20

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church (1499–1552)

Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her “my lord Katie.”

Wednesday, December 21

Thomas, apostle

The Renewing Worship calendar proposal moves St. Thomas’s day to July 3 in agreement with other Western calendars.

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Accessibility and Renovation Fund Update

Goal: \$1,500,000
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