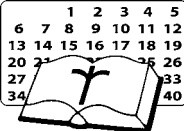


The Augustanan

February 2008



Lent is the time to prepare for spring in the church, for new growth and life. Reflection, some chosen disciplines, a prayerful attitude, with a needed touch of humility, are tools we use to cultivate that new life.



Pastor's Message
for Lent

A Good News Church – Thoughts on Evangelism



Jim Heinemeier

"Witnessing"

Check out this quote from David Daubert's article in the August 07 Lutheran: "More than once I've heard it said that the average Lutheran invites someone to church once every 23 years... Since it's easier to invite someone to church than to tell someone what trusting Jesus means to me, I don't even want to guess how infrequently we talk about to others about Jesus." BTW, the whole article is excellent! Our Evangelism Team needs to add it to our homework. But I digress.

That's Lutheran "laryngitis" for you! And it's real.

Webster says the noun version of the word "witness" means: "attestation of a fact or event: testimony." And the verb means "to testify" and that means "to make a statement based on personal knowledge or belief." So, witnessing means we tell someone as objectively as possible about what has happened/is happening to us. Not, rocket-science, right?

Most of us are utterly turned off by people who grab our lapels (maybe literally!) and demand to know if we're saved – and if so, when, where and how. We say, if that's what witnessing means, we're out of here. Now!

And rightly so. But we go overboard! Sometimes the Spirit blows open a doorway of opportunity big enough for the QE II to sail through – and we're speechless. We evidently don't want people to associate us with the fundie fringe.

Some wise person said we should communicate the Good News – and, if necessary – use words. So, there's "silent" witnessing and there's witnessing with words. On the former, I once heard of a man who worked in a big office. He was the quiet type. One day a co-worker came up and said, "Les, what church do you go to?" He had seen something in Les that he wanted for himself and his family. Doesn't get much better than that! BTW, this works particularly well with people we already know. Time magazine talks about one of Barrack Obama's campaign tactics on college campuses: "The idea is rooted in a deceptively simple truth: voters are more likely to go to the polls if they are asked face to face by someone they trust."

We could get the impression that we are the planters, the growers, the creators of the new life we need. Since we decide on our Lenten practices and we carry them out, Lent might seem like a self-improvement program. We might feel that our Lenten disciplines, like our New Years Resolutions, will only be as successful as our rigor in carrying them out. Rigor requires determination, a forced effort to become something we feel we are not. The only result worse than failing to carry out our Lenten discipline successfully would be to succeed in carrying it out so well that we convince ourselves that we can create in ourselves the life we need.

We begin to understand our Lenten discipline when we understand that the planter, the grower, the creator of the life we need is the One who created our life in the first place. The life that the church wants to grow in us this Lent and raise up in us this Easter is not a life we create or plant in ourselves. It is the life God raised up in Christ on Easter. It is the life God planted in us when we were baptized into Christ.

Good Lenten disciplines are those that help us see who is at work in our experiences, our disappointments, our struggles, our discoveries, our joys, our complicated relationships. The Creator of everything worthy to be called life, is molding and forming us in God's image. We need to stand back in humble awe to see what God is creating in us. We need to silence the noise around us long enough to hear God's gracious voice. We need to shut out the busy and sometimes ugly view of the world around us long enough to see God's beauty. We need to look beyond all that we see as hopeless and inevitable long enough to see the life God raised in us in Christ. Good Lenten discipline gives us a pause long enough to see who is digging around in us to plant new life.

The Lenten discipline we need to undertake at Augustana is to pause long enough to see that life of God sprouting up here, to see people caring about others they could just as well ignore, to see people who are grieving the loss of dear ones finding strength in this community, to see people grabbing hold of responsibility at Augustana because they see God here, to see people making significant sacrifices to support our life and work at Augustana. Pausing long enough to see these things is true Lenten discipline.

cont'd.

But there are times when words are desperately needed. When someone asks us for “a reason for the hope this is within us,” for Christ’s sake, *WE NEED TO START TALKING!!* It doesn’t have to be fancy or “theologically correct.” We just need to share what our experiences have been with God, with Jesus, and/or with our Community of Faith here at 2100. It’s the “Gospel According to Me.” We don’t need to memorize long paragraphs of Matthew or one of the other Evangelists.

Time for a *BIG* question for you: “What, specifically, *IS* the Good News According to You?” What has God/Jesus/Augustana done for and in you that’s remarkable? As in, appropriate to be remarked about. Think hard. There’s probably a *GREAT* evangelism story in there somewhere.

Then there are those opportunities to get subtle little factoids out onto the table. Someone invited Irene and me to Sunday brunch at such-and-such an eatery recently. I said, “That’s on our way home from church in The District. That’ll work!” In other words, just mentioning that you are a church-goer can give secular folk food for thought.

The next time we have opportunity to share what’s been happening with us spiritually, let’s ask God to make us “feathers on the Breath/Spirit of the Almighty.” And *TALK! TESTIFY! WITNESS!_*

Again, not rocket science!

Celebrating Lent with Children

In the church year, we celebrate three major festivals to mark Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit: Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Christmas and Easter have periods of preparation preceding them. Children may logically think of Advent as a time of getting ready for Christmas, because they routinely help with Christmas preparations in the home. Just a few months later, when Lent begins, children can make the connection that Lent is also a time of getting ready. This time we are preparing our hearts for Easter, when we celebrate God raising Jesus from the dead. Preparing our hearts involves recognizing our need for Jesus, practicing the Lenten disciplines, and hearing the stories of Jesus and the people he encountered.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when Christians around the world gather to have the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads with ashes. This service will engage children naturally, because there is movement and something unusual to see and feel. The ash cross we wear on Ash Wednesday is a way of saying, “I am sorry for my sins, and I know I need to be forgiven.” When we look in the mirror, it is a reminder to ourselves that we need to be forgiven and to forgive others. Although Ash Wednesday seems like a serious day, it is also hopeful, because the cross reminds us that God loves and forgives us. Each day is a chance to start over.

The traditional disciplines of Lent are fasting, prayer, and works of love. While the practice of fasting does not work so well for children, we can provide opportunities for them to pray and serve. Encourage children to practice works of love in their daily routines, as well as through organized activities at church.



Ideas for Lent

- Provide opportunities for children to participate in acts of love. Will there be a special offering emphasis during Lent? Prepare a container for collecting the offerings, and put it in a visible spot. Will there be a food drive? Perhaps you could borrow grocery carts from a store or set up cupboards or shelves to look like a pantry to display the food gifts. Track your progress each week to engage children.
- Invite children and adults to submit prayer requests during Lent. Perhaps their requests could be included in the prayers of intercession, or a list of prayer requests could be sent home with worshipers each week to help shape their prayer lives at home.
- If there will be baptism(s) in your church at the Easter Vigil, arrange for the children (and perhaps adults) to make a “remembrance of baptism” book for the newly baptized. Each person could contribute a page that would include a favorite Bible passage or hymn, along with illustrations and words of encouragement for walking in the faith.
- Toward the end of Lent, have families prepare Easter baskets for the home-bound, and deliver them on Easter.
- Create a reading guide for families to use at home during Holy Week. Encourage them to read the following stories in a children’s Bible each day. If children are old enough to read themselves, this is an opportunity for parents to teach their children how to use the Bible.
 - * Palm Sunday: Mark 11:1-10 (*Jesus enters Jerusalem*)
 - * Monday: Mark 11:15-18 (*Money-changers in the temple*)
 - * Tuesday: Matthew 26:3-5, 14-16 (*People plot to kill Jesus*)
 - * Wednesday: John 13:1-5, 12-15 (*Jesus washes the disciples’ feet*)
 - * Thursday: Matthew 26:26-30, 36, 47-50 (*Jesus’ last supper and arrest*)
 - * Friday: John 19:16b-18, 28-30 (*Jesus dies on the cross*)
 - * Saturday: John 19:38-42 (*Jesus’ body is laid in a tomb*)
 - * Sunday: John 20:1-18 (*Jesus is alive!*)
- *Kids Celebrate Lent & Easter* is an 8-page activity booklet that introduces children to these church seasons (Pre-Readers, AFP 978-0-8006-2118-6; Young Readers, AFP 978-0-8006-2119-3).

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Adult Forum Lenten Series “Neglected Voices”

On the Sundays of Lent (February 10-March 16), Adult Forum will feature a unique Bible study/spiritual discussion series entitled “Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins.” Based on the daybook with the same title by John Indermark, the series will explore the stories of lesser known Biblical characters and the way these stories of encounters of God can serve as instruction for our own lives.

Often, when we consider the Bible as a guide for daily living, we can be overwhelmed by the heroic personalities of scripture. (Consider the examples of Moses, David, and Elijah in the Old Testament, or, in the New Testament, John the Baptist, Saints Peter and Paul, and, of course, Jesus of Nazareth.) But how often do we have the opportunity to think about (or even remember) such people as Rahab, Shiphrah and Puah, Baruch, Simeon, Simon Magus, or Phoebe? But their stories were important enough for the writers of the Bible to include them as instructive to the faithful. And their stories can resonate with us so many centuries later.

All are welcome to join us in this thought-provoking series. Adult Forum meets at 9:15 a.m. in the library.

Marcus Borg Study Group to Begin

You’re invited to check out a new study group for adults at Augustana, based on Marcus Borg’s “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time.” The books by this author are designed for people who “learned all about Jesus” in Sundays School – but want to meet him again, maybe for the first time. But especially they’re designed for searching, “secular” seeker-types who want to know if there’s a plausible way to look at the claims of Christianity in our secular society. An introductory session is scheduled for Sunday/March 30 at 12:30 pm in the Library. Those interested in continuing in the group will meet the fourth Sundays of each month, from April 27th through August 24th. If you have questions, please see LeeAnn Hart or Jim Heinemeier.

Dear Members...

The Emergence Community Arts Collective in partnership with Cultural Tourism DC needs your help to establish a Georgia Avenue/Pleasant Plans Heritage Trail documenting the history of Georgia Avenue from the Shaw to the petworth Metro stations. As part of this project we are seeking long time residents of this area to be interviewed and all resident stakeholders to collaborate with us on the selection of historic landmarks. If you would like to participate in this project or know someone who should be contacted, please call Sylvia Robinson (202) 462-2285, or attend our third Saturday meetings held at the ECAC at 12:00 pm at 733 Euclid Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. The next meeting is February 16th.

Sylvia Robinson, executive Director, ECAC

2008 Stewardship Campaign – A Good Beginning, But...



Many thanks to all who have pledged to Augustana's 2008 Mission Plan. The figures are now in from our Financial

Secretary. As of December 2 we had received pledges from 48 members (individuals, couples, families) for a total of \$170,584.96. On a weekly basis the results break down as follows: weekly pledges range from \$2.00 to \$325.00, resulting in an average weekly pledge of \$68.34. The Stewardship Committee expresses its gratitude for your prompt return of your pledge card and your generosity. Without such committed and generous members Augustana would not be able to keep its doors open.

At the same time I must renew the request to those of you who have not yet pledged to return your pledges as soon as possible. You can place them in the offering any Sunday or mail them to the church office. The \$170,585 pledged thus far represents approximately 56% of the \$303,000 anticipated income from member contributions for 2007. Thus, it is obviously only a beginning, and we have a significant way to go to even match our 2007 goal. We frequently talk about the value we place on Augustana – its outstanding worship and music, the friendliness of our congregation, its diversity. It's now time not just to talk the talk but to walk the walk.

By way of analogy, I recently heard a story about a young man who was interviewing for a job he was really excited about. During the interview, the interviewer indicated that he couldn't make any commitment on salary but assured him it would be fair. The young man decided that was not good enough – he needed commitment – and would have to seek a job elsewhere. Augustana is the same. Kind words and assurances of support are not enough. We need your commitment. –And remember to return your time & talent commitment as well as your pledge card.

Carol Capps, for the Stewardship Team

The Diaconal Ministry Project

Kathy Garrison

By the time this letter reaches you, I will have completed the January Term at the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. The subject isn't as important as the fuller impact of the process upon my continued preparation for ministry.

While I am very aware and a little anxious about the intensity of the work that I'll have to accomplish during the next three months, I am reminded at every turn that it is not about me but about what God has planned. When I question whether or not I should be doing this work at my stage of life, something happens to affirm and validate my call and my efforts. When I feel discouraged, I find solace and renewal in meditation and in the Sacraments. When I voice my self doubts to my spiritual director, she reminds me of the source of my call.

It is true that I've already been through a "deaconess formation process." I admit that I am surprised by the depths of new discovery to which this current process has taken me. The old saying that, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," is simply not true. This "old dog" is learning more than she thought possible, and it is exciting!

This is not just about me and my journey; it is about all of us. It is especially about the people who are working with me in the Simple Presence sessions. Each one is discovering a new way of being; each is discovering a new facet of who and what they are; each is discovering a new way of giving out of a giftedness that some didn't even know they had. They are open to going to greater depths spiritually, emotionally, and in terms of self awareness than they might have done before. Each person around the table has been willing to risk stepping into this somewhat alternative realm, in order to learn about how to be more available to another person in ways that require commitment, focus, and continued self discovery.

As for me, I have the distinct joy of learning from each person around the table. That is the wonder of leading sessions like this — we learn from each other. The life experiences of each of us is fertile ground for learning, and when we share those experiences, we open the door for a learning process that is deeply personal and relevant to our lives and the way that we live in community. Sharing our stories with each other also makes us very vulnerable — therein lay the risk. Personal vulnerability allows us to be present in a way that is open and honest because the walls of the protective fortress are no longer in place, and the person we're with in the moment can actually gain access to us. In our vulnerability we go out into the world to meet the challenges of life in the lives of others. Within our vulnerability lies our strength.

Vulnerability is not new to ministry. We just celebrated the birth of a babe who was sent out into the world as a young man and obediently met the challenges contained in his time and place. In the fullness of his availability, Christ set the example of vulnerability.

Committee Activities

2008 Stewardship Campaign News

Our 2008 stewardship campaign is progressing. As of February 7 we had received 68 pledges for our 2008 Mission Plan, amounting to a total of \$231,988 toward our budget goal of \$300,000 in member contributions. Pledges range from \$2.00 weekly to \$325.00 weekly. To give you a more precise idea of the range of pledges within our congregation, our Financial Secretary has provided the following breakout:

<u>Weekly Giving</u>	<u>Number of pledges</u>
\$1-\$25	24
\$26-\$50	15
\$51-\$100	12
\$101-\$150	10
\$151-\$200	6
\$200+	1

Thanks to all who have returned pledge cards – your Stewardship Team and Finance Committee breathe more easily the closer we come to our \$300,000 goal in commitments! If you’ve not yet returned your pledge card and time & talent form, you can place it in the offering any Sunday or mail it or drop it by the church office. If you’ve misplaced them, additional pledge cards and time & talent forms are available in the rack in the narthex and in the rack across from the church office. Or, if you’re someone who does not like to deal in paper but loves electronic mail, you can e-mail your pledge to our Asst. Financial Secretary, John Isbell (jsi@msn.com).

The Mortgage Madness Rush is On!

Will you join the rush? Since the beginning of Advent in December through February 7th our Accessibility Fund received \$52,733 in donations – a great start that will cover more than five months in mortgage payments! Our “**necessary goal**” between now and next December 1 is to raise a total of **\$120,000** to cover the year’s mortgage payments.

Our **vision, or “stretch goal”** is to raise **\$170,000** between now and next December 1 so that we can again pay down \$50,000 in principal, as we were able to do during the past year. Those extra payments applied exclusively to principal mean that a smaller portion of our monthly payments are interest and a larger portion go to principal, enabling us to pay off our mortgage in less than the 20 year term of our loan.

Any amount, small or large, can be contributed, designated for Accessibility. Some possible benchmarks: \$10,000 = one month; \$7,500 = three weeks; \$5,000 = two weeks; \$2,500 = one week; \$333 = one day. Some ideas: At the annual meeting Patricia Richter announced that she would contribute \$2,500 in celebration of her birthday week in April. And Ruth Hunter announced that every year she asks her friends to donate to Accessibility rather than give her birthday presents (even though Ruth confessed she loves presents!), which amounts to several hundred dollars.

Thanks for all who continue donating to Accessibility, and thanks, Patricia and Ruth, for those creative ideas.

Carol Capps, for the Stewardship Team

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives

Augustana's Call Committee

Dear Augustana Lutheran Church:

The Call Committee is continuing its interviews of the five candidates provided by the Synod. When those interviews are complete, the Committee will decide to proceed further with one or more of these candidates or seek additional suggestions from the Synod.

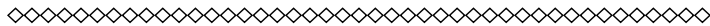
Martha's Table appreciates your generous 2007 donation of \$200 in support of our efforts to strengthen families and individuals within the community. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, Martha's Table is able to provide food, clothing, educational support and comfort to children and families in need.

Letters of Thanks

Dear Augustana Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your contribution of \$100 to the Wegener Chaplaincy Fund of the Fellowship Square Foundation. The Lord is generous to his people and you have responded in turn with this generous gift to serve his people at the Fellowship Square Houses. We of Lutheran Lay Fellowship praise God from whom every blessing flows. Your offering is one of them and we pray his blessing upon you in our joint ministry of love.

*Sincerely,
Bonnie Priebe, Lutheran Lay Fellowship*



Dear Augustana Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$510 that we received on December 17. Lutheran Social Services was founded by congregations who looked at their community, saw a need for change, and took action to make a difference. Ninety years later, I believe our founders would be proud of the work that continues in our neighborhoods today to ensure social justice and the promotion of each person's inherent worth. Your gift is making an immediate difference in the lives of children living with HIV-AIDS right here in our community...

In partnership with you, LSS touches the lives of more than 3,000 people in need each year. Additionally, over 2,000 volunteers affect their communities with financial and volunteer commitments. Thank you! We would not be able to serve our neighbors in need without your generosity and support...

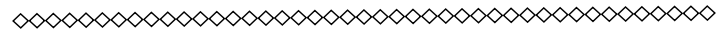
Many, many thanks for all your support! Your congregation's total is \$2,400 – enough to sponsor two children at camp next summer!

*Sincerely,
Summer Parrish, Director of Development and Stewardship
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area*

Your donation is especially appreciated this year when much of the funding for education and food programs has been reduced. Our Children and Youth programs are operating at capacity this year. We currently have 120 children (ages 3 months to 4 years) in the daycare program and more than 200 children (ages 5-18 years) in our after-school programs. As always, McKenna's Wagons continue to roll out every evening serving 1,200 meals to those in need at several locations in Northwest Washington, in addition to providing sandwiches and snacks at lunch from 12-1 each day. Martha's Outfitters, our clothing store, is busy every day providing clothing and household good for free and at low prices to members of the community...

Martha's Table's doors are open daily, so please visit us and see how you are helping us empower the wider community.

*Sincerely,
Linsey Buss, President
Martha's Table, Inc.*



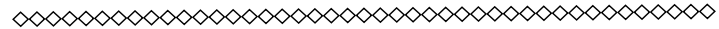
Dear Friends:

I want to wish you a wonderful winter season and thank you for thinking of N Street Village during this holiday time! Because of donors like you, we are able to improve, empower and change the lives of homeless and low-income women every day.

N Street Village serves over 700 women in need per year and could not do so without your help.

Thanks and blessings!

*Happy New Year!
Mary L. Funke, Ed. D., Executive Director*



Dear Friends:

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

We thank you for the very enjoyable social hour in our Hall on December 9th!

- The Residents of the National Lutheran Home

[Augustana Social Ministries organized a Christmas carol sing-along and social get-together at the National Lutheran Home on December 9th.]



LENTEN CALENDAR

Thursday, February 14

Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs

These two brothers from a noble family in Thessalonika in northeastern Greece were priests and missionaries. After some early initial missionary work by Cyril among the Arabs, the brothers retired to a monastery. They were later sent to work among the Slavs, the missionary work for which they are most known. Since Slavonic had no written form at the time, the brothers established a written language with the Greek alphabet as its basis. They translated the scriptures and the liturgy using this Cyrillic alphabet. The Czechs, Serbs, Croats, Slovaks, and Bulgars regard the brothers as the founders of Slavic literature. The brothers' work in preaching and worshiping in the language of the people are honored by Christians in both East and West.

Monday, February 18

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546

For those in the habit of remembering the work of Martin Luther on Reformation Day, this commemoration may seem out of place. But it is a custom to remember saints on the day of their death, their "heavenly birthday." On this day Luther died at the age of 62. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

If a congregation has catechumens who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, they might receive the catechism during the Enrollment of Candidates on the first Sunday in Lent. If there are no catechumens, a congregation might study the catechism during Lent to renew its own baptismal faith.

Saturday, February 23

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156

Polycarp was Bishop of Smyrna and a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation. In turn he was known by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon in France, and Ignatius of Antioch. At the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. When urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me?" The magistrate who made the offer was reluctant to kill a gentle old man, but he had no choice. Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of renouncing temptation.

Sunday, February 24

Evangelical Lutheran Worship moves the festival of St. Matthias to May 14 in agreement with other Western calendars.

Monday, February 25

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921

Fedde was born in Norway and trained as a deaconess. In 1882, at the age of 32, she was asked to come to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. Her influence was wide-ranging, and she established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn and the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis. She returned home to Norway in 1895 and died there.

Saturday, March 1

George Herbert, hymnwriter, 1633

As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, England, George Herbert excelled in languages and music. He went to college with the intention of becoming a priest, but his scholarship attracted the attention of King James I. Herbert served in parliament for two years. After the death of King James and at the urging of a friend, Herbert's interest in ordained ministry was renewed. He was ordained a priest in 1630 and served the little parish of St. Andrew Bremerton until his death. He was noted for unfailing care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. Herbert is best remembered, however, as a writer of poems and hymns such as "Come, my way, my truth, my life" (ELW 816) and "The King of love my shepherd is" (ELW 502).

Sunday, March 2

John Wesley, 1791; Charles Wesley, 1788; renewers of the church

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline of frequent communion, fasting, and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience while reading Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, John was perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth-century revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal in the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed a separate status.

Charles wrote more than 600 hymns, including several that are especially appropriate for Lent: "Christ, whose glory fills the skies" (ELW 553) and "Love divine, all loves excelling" (ELW 631).

Friday, March 7

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 202

In the year 202 the emperor Septimius Severus forbade conversions to Christianity. Perpetua, a noblewoman, Felicity, a slave, and other companions were all catechumens at Carthage in North Africa. They were imprisoned and sentenced to death. Perpetua's father, who was not a Christian, visited her in prison and begged her to lay aside her Christian convictions in order to spare her life and spare the family from scorn. Perpetua responded and told her father, "We know that we are not placed in our own power but in that of God."

During the weeks of Lent, congregations that do not have catechumens can pray for those who do as they approach their own death and rebirth in the waters of baptism at the Easter Vigil, and are clothed with the new life of Christ.

Monday, March 10

Harriet Tubman, 1913; Sojourner Truth, 1883; renewers of society

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and remained a slave until about age 30 when, fearing she would be sold and moved farther south, she escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about 300 others to escape until slavery was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and poor.

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives

Sojourner Truth, too, was born a slave, in New York state. Her birth name was Isabella. After slavery was abolished in New York in 1827, she was freed and, while working as a housekeeper, became deeply involved in Christianity. A number of years later, she discerned a call to become a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and for women's rights.

Wednesday, March 12

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604

Gregory was born into a politically influential family. At one time he held political office and at another time he lived as a monk, all before he was elected to the papacy. Gregory's work was extensive. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. He established a school to train church musicians. Gregorian chant is named in his honor. He wrote a treatise underscoring what is required of a parish pastor serving a congregation. He sent missionaries to preach to the Anglo-Saxons who had invaded England. And at one time he organized distribution of grain during a shortage of food in Rome.

Monday, March 17

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, 461

At sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. He himself admitted that up to this point he cared little for God. He escaped after six years, returned to his family in southwest Britain, and began to prepare for ordained ministry. He later returned to Ireland, this time to serve as a bishop and missionary. He made his base in the north of Ireland and from there made many missionary journeys with much success. In his autobiography he denounced the slave trade, perhaps from his own experience as a slave. Patrick's famous baptismal hymn to the Trinity, "I bind unto myself today" (ELW 450), can be used as a meditation on Lent's call to return to our baptism.

Wednesday, March 19

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

The gospels are silent about much of Joseph's life. We know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. The Gospel of Luke shows him acting in accordance with both civil and religious law by returning to Bethlehem for the census and by presenting the child Jesus in the temple on the fortieth day after his birth. The Gospel of Matthew tells of Joseph's trust in God, who led him through visionary dreams. Because Joseph is not mentioned after the story of a young Jesus teaching in the temple, it is assumed that he died before Jesus reached adulthood.

Congregations might consider a Sicilian tradition to commemorate Joseph that combines the three Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. The poor are invited to a festive buffet called "St. Joseph's Table." Lenten prayers and songs interrupt the course of the meal. What other ways can a congregation's almsgiving and charity be increased during Lent?

Friday, March 21

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, 1556

Cranmer was serving as bishop of Taunton in England when he was chosen by King Henry VIII to become archbishop of

Canterbury, largely because Cranmer would agree to the king's divorce. Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which in revised form remains the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Saturday, March 22

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, 1758

Edwards was a minister in Connecticut and described as the greatest of the New England Puritan preachers. One of Edwards's most notable sermons found its way into contemporary anthologies of literature. In this sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," he spoke at length about hell. However, throughout the rest of his works and his preaching he had more to say about God's love than God's wrath. His personal experience of conversion came when he felt overwhelmed with a sense of God's majesty and grandeur, rather than a fear of hell. Edwards served a Puritan congregation, where he believed that only those who had been fully converted ought to receive communion; his congregation thought otherwise. Edwards left that congregation and carried out mission work among the Housatonic Indians of Massachusetts. He became president of the College of New Jersey, later to be known as Princeton University.

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Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 16, 10:00 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms – Meridian Hill Park
Blessing of the Palms and Procession to Augustana Church
The Passion according to St. Matthew and Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday – March 20, 7:30 p.m.

The Absolution
The Liturgy of the Word and Washing of Feet
The Liturgy of the Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday – March 21

12:00 noon – Service with spoken liturgy
The Passion According to St. John
The Bidding Prayer
The Adoration of the Cross and Reproaches
1:30 – Neighborhood Stations of the Cross
St. Augustine Church
The Third District Police Station
Malcolm X Park
The Fedora at Meridian Hill
Nehemiah Cooperative
Christopher Price House
Cardoza High School and Howard University
Miriam House
Anthony Bowen YMCA
Ready Personnel Service
Martha's Table and Outfitters
U Street Corridor
Campbell Heights Senior Residence
Augustana Lutheran Church
7:30 p.m. – Service with sung liturgy

Holy Saturday – March 22, 8:00 p.m.

The Vigil of Easter
The Service of Light
The Narration of Salvation History
The Service of Baptism
The First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday – March 23, 10:30 a.m.

Festival Eucharist with Chamber Orchestra
Music of Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives

FEBRUARY

- 1 Beyonnie Whitaker
- 2 Nicole Ruman Skinner
- 4 Daniel Mushala
- 6 Deidra Agbro, Timothy Himes,
- 9 Joseph Bucci
- 12 Margaret Bond
- 14 Kane Borders, Caroline Borders, Robert Bass Jr.
- 15 Wayne Briggs
- 16 Alan Yount
- 20 James Hafner
- 22 Dorothy Schipp
- 24 Ruth Hunter
- 26 James Briggs, Ingrid Margrave
- 27 Marilyn Olson



MARCH

- 1 Herman Davis, Sr.
- 3 Monique Agbro
- 6 Dorothy Gladney, James Lewis, Jr.,
- 8 Celia Davenport, Paul Beddoe
- 10 Robert Luoma. Richard Gillam
- 12 Clarence Briggs, Caroline Gist, Lynn Fischer-Fox
- 13 Brian Gaston, Bruce Gaston
- 15 Robin Hailstorks
- 16 Barbara Solt, John Shutt, Bruce Reed
- 19 David Hatfield
- 22 Julia Reed
- 26 Christabelle Mushala
- 27 Ron Mueller,
- 28 Steve Brodd,
- 29 Lars Sorenson
- 30 Doris Lewis
- 31 Kaia Lenhart

Personnel Committee Report

The annual report to the congregation provides a review of the efforts of the 2007 Personnel Committee to codify personnel policies for the first time. The policies establish guidelines for vacation and sick leave, healthcare coverage, performance review, and hiring and dismissal. The policies incorporated a prior-adopted Standing Rule clearly establishing that authority of dismissal rests with Council. A “chain of support” is also laid out which establishes the pastor as responsible for staff supervision, and the Personnel Committee serves as “ombudsman” in the event of appeals. At the January council meeting the policies were endorsed in concept; however a number of questions were raised as to the use of some terminology. The committee was asked to have the policies reviewed by a pro bono attorney after making a number of editorial changes. A pro bono attorney has been identified, however, the committee needs to be re-constituted in keeping with the constitutional requirement that it be comprised of five council members. Two members, Judi Bucci and Matt Larson, left council upon completion of their terms. A new committee will be established at the new council organizational meeting on February 16th.

Parish Concerns

In our prayers, let us include the following:

+ **Members:** Louise Anderson, Robert Anderson, Aaron Bonds, Pearl Cox, Celia Davenport, Herman Davis, Sr., Kathy Garrison, Ronald DiGregorio, Norman Forness, Dorothy Gladney, Renee Ivery, George Krafthofer, Bill Reid, Don Werner.

+ **Friends and Family:** Julio Azpuru-Bernhard (Azpuru); Jeffrey Berry (Bob & Alice Anderson); Connie Boorer (Hunter); Ruby Brooks (Anthony); Edith Bowers (Bowers); Melissa & Kevin Brown (Larisch); Judy Cashner (Cashner); Betty Childers (Wassum); Teresa Cross (Knauff); Mindy Davis (Isbell); Lyle Forness (Forness); Patricia Franks (Knauff); Pat Frohman (Hunter); Betty Grady (Werner); Leona Harper (Knauff); Guy Jacobs (Berube); Denise Kellam (Bucci); Sara Kepple (Richter); John Larson (Kahler-Larson); Ann Lockwood (Werner); Samantha Lopez (Kahler-Larson); Frank & Celeste Lotz (Knauff); Ken Merritt (Hunter); William Moon (Wassum); Bruno Muzzi (Markle-Elder); Chris Nelson (Burch-Nelson); Fernando Otero (Pizza); Marion Papacosta (Roth-Renne); Rachelle Portner (Hart); Carrie Reynolds (Knauff); Veronica Richardson (Knauff); Dave & Chris Sharp (Hart); Val Smith (Pizza); Caleb Richer-Tate (Richter); Diana Tate (Richter); Jim & Marge Tate (Richter); Nancy Telford (Richter); Maria Weber (Fox-Fischer); Nellikan Wernicke (Baerwald); Cay and John Wiant (Larisch); Pamela Wilson (Markle-Elder); Joleita Yurchak (Roth-Renne).



+ **The Augustana Call Committee:** Ruth Sorenson, Chair, Josephine Allen, Brian Danaher, Robert (Chip) Fenton, LeeAnn Hart, Tommie Robinson, Jr., and Rebecca Roth, *ex officio*.

+ **In Christian Joy** with Elizabeth Nash Kennedy on the birth of her son, Sennen Joseph Nash on December 18, 2007. Born five weeks premature, both mother and son are now at home and doing well.

+ **In Christian Joy** with our members Korey Berg and Esther Rege who were married at Augustana on December 31st. Congratulations and best wishes to the newly married couple.

+ **In Christian Sympathy** with family and friends, of Deborah Tang especially Salome Burton. Ms. Tang died on Christmas Day.

+ **In Thanksgiving and Joy** with Jennifer Norden and Sandy Soundararagan on the birth of a baby boy on Thursday, December 19th at Georgetown University Hospital.

+ **In Christian Sympathy** with the family and friends of Sylvian Luttamus, mother of Eric Luttamus who died on at the Lutheran Home in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin on Thursday, December 6th.

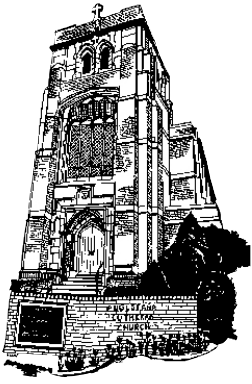
Many thanks to the people who made our sanctuary festive for the Christmas season and services. Especially Chris Vierling for the wonderfully lit tree and Kevin Canfield for the beautiful flora. And thank you, members of Augustana for all the donations to make this possible.

Congratulations to our new Council Members who were elected at the Annual Meeting on January 27th. Those elected were Paul Beddoe, Kelly Bowers, Carol Capps and David Juifs for a three year term of office, and John Isbell and Sam Luebke for a one year term of office. The new Congregational Council will hold its re-organizational meeting and retreat on Saturday, February 16th at the home of Larry Anthony.

In Praise of Augustana's Choir and Music Director

For Augustanans who regularly attend services, the high quality of music provided by our music leaders is "a given." Each Sunday beautiful anthems are sung beautifully to elaborate on the theological theme of the day, and to carry the congregation's thoughts into contemplation and praise. But on special occasions, the choir "outdoes itself" with presentations in combination or recognition of special occasions that are truly superlative. One such occasion was the January service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany. Eight anthems were sung a *capella*, with such quality, reverence, and beauty that one could sense the majesty and awe of that first Epiphany of those witnessing the baby Christ for the first time. Dr. Mitts is to be commended for his prelude and postlude organ voluntaries as well as his selection of the particularly beautiful pieces sung by the choir. Hopefully such events will be presented more often in coming years, be attended by more members of the congregation, and become a source of outreach and welcome for people new to our community. We can truly be grateful for the time, commitment, and service that our music leaders provide to the glory of God.

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