



The Augustanan

March 2008



The Church's Work In Holy Week

By Pastor Theiss



The many services of Holy Week must give you the impression that, in order to experience this sacred week, you must come to church for each of them—for many requiring a long drive—and sit through long liturgies. We could ask how these services give us the benefit of Holy Week. Does the repetition, the immersion, or the sheer length of time we spend in church make us more pious?

The church calls these services liturgies. Liturgy literally means work. Liturgy is the work of the church in its services. It is the church at work, doing the work that defines it.

The church's work is not just listening to the readings about Christ's passion, singing hymns, watching baptisms, and lining up to receive bread and wine. The work is not just external actions. Rather it is the internal, spiritual intention behind them. The true work of the church is to walk with Christ through his passion and resurrection. The Holy Week services are the church's way of participating in Christ's suffering, death, and new life.

The liturgies of Holy Week are the church's re-enactment of the drama of our salvation, for the specific purpose of giving us a part in it.

On Palm Sunday at 10:00 a.m., at Meridian Hill Park (by W Street), we shall gather with St. Augustine's Catholic members to hear the story of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem and to bless palms branches, so that we might march to our separate churches as Jesus marched into Jerusalem.

In our Palm Sunday Eucharist, at 10:30 a.m., The Passion According to St. Matthew will be read by members of the congregation taking the various parts. The impression we want to give is that this passion story is taking place in our very congregation. We are acting it out in our midst.

On Maundy Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., the Absolution will be given to each of us personally at the Altar Rail. We will all be invited to wash one another's feet as Jesus commanded us to do.

On Good Friday, at 12:00 noon and at 7:30 p.m., The Passion According to St. John will read by several members of the congregation. The Bidding Prayer will bring our concern for all people before God. We shall revere the Cross of Christ as a response to the reading of St. John's Passion. At 1:30 p.m., our congregation will join St. Augustine's congregation in visiting significant neighborhood sites designated as Stations of the Cross, for a brief reflection, song, and prayer. We shall recognize these sites as places where we need to see the cross of Christ in our neighborhood.

Holy Saturday at 8:00 p.m., we shall gather in darkness at the front steps of the church, to bless the new fire lit to represent the new life of Christ that rose this night. We shall then light our hand candles from the Paschal Candle to remember that we share in this new life. We shall then hear the ancient stories of how God brought people through dangerous waters into life and freedom, and finally how we were baptized with Christ into his death and resurrection. We shall baptize some, affirm the baptism of new members, and renew the baptism promise for all of us. We shall then share in the death and resurrection of Christ by sharing in the bread and wine.

On Easter morning, at 10:30 a.m., with exuberant hymns, with choir, organ, and instruments, with joyful Alleluias, with our chancel decorated lavishly with banks of lilies, we shall celebrate the resurrection not only of Christ, but of ourselves and of our Augustana community.

The liturgy of Holy Week is not for spectators, but for players, not for mildly interested observers, but for teams on the field. Come prepared for a work-out.

A Good News Church – Thoughts on Evangelism

"Hymnal Ribbons and Guest-friendly Worship"

Jim Heinemeier



By now most of the "old-timers" among us are doing OK, more or less, at finding our way through the Sunday liturgy as it's printed in the bulletin and at a number of locations throughout our wonderful new cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship books (aka ELW's).

But have you ever watched a guest struggling with the pages of the bulletin and the different parts of the ELW? Was that Pg. 125 or No. 125? Painful! And if it's painful for us to watch, think about how off-putting it is for our valued guests!

One approach: "Let them suck it up and learn the same way the rest of us did." Now that's guest-friendly. And then we'd wonder why people weren't coming back.

We need urgently to do everything we can to make our liturgy as easy to navigate as is humanly possible. Many ideas come to mind – and the Evangelism Team feels called to keep Augustana's feet to the fire on this one. BTW, one of the ideas we're not considering is putting up a huge screen over the altar, onto which all the words and music of the liturgy would be projected, together with a bouncing ball! That would be very easy to navigate but we'd be unsure into which mega-church we'd just stumbled.

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cont'd.

As a first step toward the solution, our Worship/Music Team has decided to order sets of ribbons for our ELW's. You've probably seen them. Ribbons glued to a stylized tab that fits into the spine of the hymnal. They cost \$4.95 each, plus S&H. Members and friends have donated \$600 – but that will only cover 120 of the 300 or so sets we'd need to complete the task. The Team no doubt plans to scatter the beribboned books throughout the nave. Some of those aforementioned friends have volunteered to do the grunt work of installing the ribbons. We thank them! And we thank our Worship/Music Friends for spearheading project Hymnal Ribbon!

I'm guessing we would encourage our guests to spend a few minutes prior to the voluntary, figuring out where all the ribbons should go. And then when the liturgy begins, with all the places marked, our guests would end up looking like ELW professionals. And who knows? This idea might prove helpful to long-time members as well!

We'll be anxious to get your feedback.

And if the idea appeals to you and you want to help outfit the rest of the ELW's in the nave and choir, you're invited to make a donation to Augustana, ear-marked "Hymnal Ribbons." Thanks!

Meanwhile, if you're near worshipers who are struggling to find out where on earth we are in the liturgy, gently help them find their way. Again, thank you!

Celebrating Easter with Children



Many children, as well as adults, think of Easter as a one-day event rather than a season. Yet the season of Easter lasts fifty days—seven Sundays, a week of weeks. It begins on Easter Day, continues through Ascension, and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. Themes of the season include resurrection, changed lives, mystery, Jesus as the way to God, and

Jesus' continued presence with us through the Holy Spirit.

The sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of Easter Sunday are a feast for the senses. Children can't help but notice that this is a very special day. Can you take it a step further and help the children experience surprise and wonder? Perhaps there is an unexpected element or two that could be included in a children's sermon to help young people experience the astonishment that Mary felt when Jesus spoke to her at the empty tomb.

The image of a garden has been suggested for the Easter season. Perhaps you could involve children in planting fast-growing flowers or wheat grass toward the end of Lent. Midway through the Easter season, the seeds will have come to new life. The butterfly is often used as a symbol for Easter, because

it illustrates transformation. The butterfly begins its life as a caterpillar, then sets to work forming a tomb-like chrysalis around itself. After a time, a changed creature that will experience life in a whole new way, the butterfly emerges from the dark chamber into the light of day. Both children and adults love the butterfly, and in time children grow in their understanding of this metaphor.

The Day of Pentecost is the culmination of the Easter celebration, and along with Christmas and Easter it is one of the three festival days of the church year. The presence of red banners, paraments, and flowers, along with the sounds of wind chimes or voices speaking in foreign languages from the midst of the congregation, will enliven the story for children. The concept of the Holy Spirit is a bit abstract for young children, yet they appreciate knowing that God is with them and that the Spirit will help them live as children of God. You might encourage them to consider their gifts and how they can use them to serve God.

Ideas for Easter

- If children's sermons are normally included, help the children recognize the seasonal character of Easter by beginning each one the same way. For example, "This is the time of year when we celebrate the mystery of how God raised Jesus from the dead and then sent the Holy Spirit to help us share the good news about Jesus with everyone." After sharing a simple message with the children, conclude by giving them something that would help them share the good news about Jesus with someone else, for example a sticker or a small object for telling a story.
- Teach children to dip their fingers in the baptismal font and make the sign of the cross on their foreheads as a reminder of their baptism and to celebrate the new life that we have as Easter people.
- Invite children to prepare the readings from Acts each week of Easter. Many assemblies are unaccustomed to hearing children's voices lead worship, so it allows worshipers to hear the texts in a fresh way. It also enables other children to imagine how they might use their gifts to serve. Make sure the children have adequate time to rehearse with a microphone.
- Do the children in your congregation sing in church regularly? If not, the Easter season would be a wonderful time for the Sunday school children to sing an Easter song or hymn.
- If you use a garden theme throughout Easter, conclude with fiery red geraniums on Pentecost. At the end of the day, perhaps these potted plants could be used as thank you gifts for Sunday school teachers or others who serve throughout the year.
- *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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Celebrating The Three Days with Children

Each year at the Jewish seder meal, a child asks, “Why is this night different from all other nights?” A series of four questions follows, and parents pass on the faith by telling the story of the Exodus, the central story in the Hebrew scriptures of God’s love and salvation for God’s people. A Christian child might also ask, “Why are these Three Days different from all others? In all other weeks, we gather for worship only once. Why in this week do we come so often?” The Three Days are a special time set aside each year to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

For families with busy lives, it may be tempting to worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Day but miss the great Three Days. Parents may also assume that the mood of these days is too somber for children or that children will be disruptive to the assembly. But these once-a-year liturgies offer a unique ritual environment for the retelling of the central events of the last days of Jesus’ life and of God’s saving act in the resurrection.



Maundy Thursday recounts Jesus’ last meal with his disciples, his commandment to love one another, and his being handed over to death. Like no other time in the year, the rituals of this worship draw us into the story through footwashing, communion, and the stripping of the altar. Are there ways for the children in your congregation to participate in these rites?



Good Friday retells Jesus’ death and burial and anticipates his resurrection. We hear the Passion narrative according to John, and we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness. Is there an opportunity for children to reflect on what this means for them?



The Easter Vigil is sometimes called the “queen of the Christian year,” with its movement from darkness to light, the extended storytelling that sets the gospel in the context of the broader salvation history, and the celebration of baptism and the first communion after Easter. There is much movement and opportunity to engage multiple senses. How might you invite children to share in leadership roles?

These days provide rich opportunity for parents to pass on the faith to their children. The rituals will grow more meaningful each year.

Ideas for the Three Days

- Create a series of bulletins for children to use during the Three Days. Use clip art to help them visualize and link the events of the Three Days. Include a simple outline of the order of worship so children may follow along easily. Let them know when there will be opportunities to move around, taste, touch, smell, and see, as well as hear and sing.
- In a number of churches, children receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday. Invite those families to bake bread for Maundy Thursday worship. If that is not possible, serve a different type of bread than usual (for example, pita bread) to help worshipers experience through taste that this time is out of the ordinary.
- If your congregation practices footwashing on Maundy Thursday, be sure to include children.
- Create a “Kids Journey to the Cross” experience for younger children. Set up several stations around the church where parts of the story will be told through drama, storytelling, or art. At each station, give children a small memento of that part of the story. Provide each child with a purple fabric bag for collecting their mementos, and encourage the children to use these items to recount the story to someone else at a later time.
- If you gather around the font for baptism at the Easter Vigil, invite the children to stand near the font. Invite older children to serve as readers, or have them provide sound effects for some of the readings.
- Anticipate that there will be more children than usual in worship on Easter Sunday, including visitors or children who might normally be in Sunday school during worship. How will you welcome them? Will there be a special bulletin for them, an interactive children’s sermon, worship bags, or child friendly refreshments?
- Kids Celebrate Three Amazing Days is an 8-page activity booklet that introduces children to the central actions of the Three Days (Pre-readers, AFP 978-0-8006-2116-2; Young Readers, AFP 978-0-8006-2117-9).

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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

**“Holy,
holy, holy
is the Lord God
Almighty,
and is, and is,,
to come.”**
Revelation 4:8

‘Green Palms’

This year in celebration of Palm Sunday on March 16th, Augustana will be partnered with Lutheran World Relief to use Eco-Palms – a branch truly worthy of celebration! Our purchase of these palms supports harvesting communities in Guatemala and Mexico by increasing their income, providing education for their children and generating opportunities to purchase more nutritious fruits and vegetables. More importantly, local harvester cooperatives are empowered to choose where and how funds from Eco-Palm sales should be invested in their communities. And since Eco-Palms are harvested in a sustainable fashion, the communities protect the local rainforest for future generations. LWR has worked with the University of Minnesota to build support for this most worthy program. As we wave our palms, we can truly say: *“Hosanna in the highest!”*

Council Report

The 2008 Council met on February 16th for its annual organizational meeting. Pastor Theiss led opening devotions and each member self-introduced by telling why they agreed to serve and where they see Augustana in the next years. Officers were elected, Council committee liaisons were selected, the executive and personnel committee membership was set, and a number of items were discussed in preparation for further council deliberation and possible action.

Rebecca Roth was elected Vice President for a second term; Barbara Solt, Secretary, and Pastor Theiss, Arne Sorenson and Larry Anthony comprise the executive committee. The personnel committee, according to the constitution is comprised of five members, with the chair elected by council. The five members are John McKirgen (who agreed to convene the committee until a chair is elected at the next meeting), Irene Heinemeier, Paul Beddoe, Sam Luebke, and Barbara Solt.

Other items included news that the ALTA School has informed of intent to remain a tenant for the 2008-2009 academic year. Rebecca gave an update on the call committee progress and next steps. There was a discussion of two areas of intentional focus during the year: Stewardship and Member Care (both new member retention and caring for aging or ill members. Another item concerned possible addressing the council leadership titles at a future date. It was decided that further deliberation and possible action on this would be deferred until after a new pastor is called. A number of property-related needs were discussed.

The Finance Committee is embarking on a review of the expense allocation process among various cost centers so that future budgets can more clearly reflect program activity. Council agreed to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., with the exception of March when the meeting will be held after Vespers on March 12th, rather than during Holy Week.

Barbara E. Solt
Secretary

Former Member Writes Immigration Study Guide

Heidi Ernst, a former Augustana Member, has written two articles in the March issue of The Lutheran study guide on Immigration issues. The articles provide a look at the issues from the church's theological perspective as well as from the varying viewpoints of members wrestling with the complexities of United States immigration policy.

2008 Stewardship Update-Progress to Report!

By March 2nd we had in hand 72 pledges for our 2008 Mission Plan, amounting to a total of \$270,468 toward our budget goal of \$300,000 in member contributions. Pledges range from \$2.00 weekly to \$500.00 weekly. To give you a fuller picture of the range of pledges within our congregation, our Financial Secretary has provided the following data:

<u>Weekly Giving</u>	<u>Number of Pledges</u>
\$1-\$25	24
\$26-\$50	16
\$51-\$100	13
\$101-\$150	11
\$151-\$200	6
Above \$200	2

Many thanks to all the generous members who have returned pledge cards and brought us this far toward our goal. The funds we receive through member contributions pay staff salaries; keep the lights, heat, and air conditioning on; and enable us to reach out to the neighborhood and engage in other program activities to further God's mission at New Hampshire and V Street, NW.

It's never too late to pledge –we anticipate new pledges will come in as we receive new members throughout the year. Pledge cards and time & talent forms - available in the racks in the narthex and across from the church office - can be placed in the offering any Sunday or mailed or dropped by the church office. Or, if you prefer, you can e-mail your pledge to our Asst. Financial Secretary, John Isbell (jsi34@msn.com).

Also, we are still looking for members to help launch our Green Team activities at Augustana. The goal of the Green Team this year is to develop specific suggestions of ways in which we as individuals and as a congregation can better care for our environment. If you wish to be involved in this new venture, please contact Jim Heinemeier (ishjth@hotmail.com). The Green Team will next meet after worship on April 13th.

Your Stewardship Team

*"A Salute to Friends of
Augustana Who Have Supported
Accessibility"*

Henry Nouwen has written that "We are the Gifts we've been given." Parker Palmer would tell us to function out of our "abundance" rather than our "scarcity." Each of us receives the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and through this we are empowered to do the work God intends. It is this blessing, this abundance within us that makes us the gifts given for service in the community and the world.

A goal of my Diaconal Project was to guide participants into the awareness of the abundance within them. Each person in that group has begun a journey of spiritual and emotional self understanding that will impact the way they practice compassionate listening and presence.

As the project has come to a close, it truly is only a beginning — a beginning of growing self awareness, deeper understanding of our giftedness, new appreciation of God and one another, and increasing personal growth that is part of the ongoing journey of our life together.

Part of being in community is the belief that we are truly fellow sojourners. It was abundantly clear during the class times on Sundays that the people around that table became invested in the journey with one another. They will use what they have learned with each other, with the Augustana family and with those they meet out in the world. They will inspire and be a witness to the love of God in Christ through the love of neighbor that they now practice with new deliberateness. When we are invested in relationships within community, we seem to live in a constant paradox between love and loss. It is within the personal interactions that presence with and for one another becomes a most valued gift — a gift out of the abundance of all that we have been given as children of God.

I am truly thankful for each person who chose to be a part of that program. Their insights, their experiences, and their care for each other and for me has been sustaining, has provided guidance, and has been nurturing. To each of them, I am grateful.

The essential elements of the Practicing Simple Presence project have the potential of becoming a part of the Augustana family at some level. As a way of continuing conversation about healthy community, we will embark on a journey through Bonhoeffer's Life Together beginning on the second Sunday of April. We will continue those sessions on the second Sunday of each month. A discussion of this book will deepen our understanding and appreciation of community.

As we anticipate the presence of a new pastor, our own awareness of what it takes to sustain and nurture healthy community can only benefit the emotional and spiritual health of the Augustana family. It is an exciting time for us; it is also a challenging time — yet another paradox.

With the anticipation of the joy of the Resurrection that we will celebrate on Easter, we can also celebrate the joy of our new life in Christ as we meet each other in our shared humanness.

*Kathy Garrison
Writer/Author*

This month I want to highlight some of the friends of our congregation that have been faithful supporters of our accessibility efforts. Salome Burton has been tireless in mobilizing support from her and Ardelle's friends, and a number of their friends have responded at various times, including covering the cost of the lanterns flanking the atrium doors. Most recently, in celebration of Ardelle's life, friends of the family — many of whom are not members of Augustana — contributed over \$6,000 in her memory. Ruth Hunter's friends have been equally faithful donors to our Accessibility Fund, providing several hundred dollars each year in honor of Ruth on her birthday.

In many other instances as well, too numerous to mention, relatives and friends have honored members at Christmas with accessibility gifts or donated to the Accessibility Fund in memory of loved ones. The Swedish congregation has also been supportive. Each year one couple contributes \$1,000, and several other families donate larger or smaller amounts from time to time. Also worth celebrating is the fact that early in the project the Clark-Winchole Foundation donated \$10,000 in response to a funding proposal developed by a small committee under the leadership of Amy Yergey.

One story I particularly want to share is of someone who attended Augustana (but was not a member) when our accessibility project was launched but later moved to Boston. Early last year he wrote Bill Riggs saying he had come into some money and was arranging with his bank to send a check monthly to Augustana because he felt this was a very important project, and he wanted to help us pay off our debt. We now receive a check for \$500 from him every month!

We are grateful to all these friends of Augustana for their support of our accessibility renovations and for their help in sharing the financial cost.

*Carol Capps
for the Stewardship Team*

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Updated Primer On Youth Sexual Orientation

<http://www.socialworkers.org/pressroom/media/justthefacts.pdf>

NASW, along with 12 other education, health, mental health, and religious organizations, recently released an update of the publication *Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel*. The 20-page pamphlet provides new information that will help school administrators and educators create safe and healthy school environments in which all students can achieve their best. Click on the URL above to download the pamphlet free.

The other one:

Learn Vocabulary, Have Fun, and Do Good all at once!

www.freerice.com

This Web site is a game in which you answer multiple choice definitions of a word. For every correct answer a few grains of rice are contributed to a feed- the -hungry program. As you play you build up “rice bowls.” You also can compete with yourself as a tally of vocabulary levels are included. If you miss a word, you drop back to an easier level; if you’re good, you get more difficult words.

Letters of Thanks

Gifts for the Christ Child

Brian – I am so excited to inform you and the Social Ministry Committee that everything, and I mean everything, Augustana Church so generously donated has been put to good use!! I was shocked when seeing that all the boxes and bags I had delivered to the buildings were completely gone! Our program staff was very, very pleased to receive all items, especially the diapers, which I think were the first to go. Everyone was just ecstatic and awed over the sincere thoughtfulness and kindness of Augustana. One mother asked while I was delivering the remaining items, “All this stuff was given by a church?” After replying yes to her, she responded by saying, “That is just soooooo nice of them!”

Without our families knowing you or you really knowing our families, a deep connection has been made. I’m sure you realize the strong impact a small gesture can have. Our families face difficult struggles, so when there are moments that come along which help lessen the load, they recognize the impact, because they literally feel it.

Thank you again for Augustana’s dedication to this project. It was truly touching to be a witness to all of it. And really, I whole-heartedly believe that God’s kingdom is a better place because of it.

Peace to you as we continue to journey through Lent – Thanks Brian.

Angie
Angela Hummel, Volunteer Outreach Assistant
Transitional Housing Corporation (Attends Augustana while
interning at THC)

Nelson James LePard Reed is acclaimed by music critics.

On Sunday, March 2, 2008 the Cathedral Choral Society premiered Dominick Argento’s latest liturgical composition, entitled “Evensong: Of Love and Angels. Commissioned by the Cathedral Choral Society the piece was written to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Washington Cathedral.

Augustana’s own James Nelson LePard Reed was the featured tremble soloist for the performance. Both the *Washington Post* and the *Baltimore Sun* acclaimed Nelson’s singing.

Joe Banno writing in the *Washington Post* called Nelson “pure-voiced and eloquent”. While the *Baltimore Sun*’s Tim Smith wrote “This blessing on “those who work, or watch or weep” and those slipping past the bonds of life is the profound heart of Evensong, and it was exquisitely, disarmingly sung by Nelson James LePard Reed. Time seemed to stop in the cavernous space, where the light was fading in the intricate stained glass windows, as if on cue. The purity of the boy’s tone and the clarity of his diction (lovely rolled r’s included) communicated deeply. Elizabeth Futral, the stellar soprano soloist who could be seen wiping away tears as she listened to the boy’s song.”

The Cathedral Choral Society and orchestra were conducted by J. Riley Lewis in what was called “a beautifully prepared, richly communicative performance. The Evensong was also written in memory of Argento’s wife Carolyn who died in 2006.

All of us in the Augustana family are proud of Nelson’s accomplishments and congratulate him on a job well done!

Calendar Observances - Lent 2008

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.

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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.

Calendar Observances - Three Days 2008

Friday, March 21

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Saturday, March 22

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, 1758

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God’s love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Calendar Observances - Easter 2008

Monday, March 31

John Donne, poet, 1631

This priest of the Church of England is commemorated for his poetry and spiritual writing. Most of his poetry was written before his ordination and is sacred and secular, intellectual and sensuous. He saw in his wife, Anne—their marriage resulted in his imprisonment—glimpses of the glory of God and a human revelation of divine love. In 1615 he was ordained and seven years

later he was named dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. By that time his reputation as a preacher was firmly in place. In his poem “Good Friday, 1613. Riding westward,” he speaks of Jesus’ death on the cross: “Who sees God’s face, that is self life, must die; What a death were it then to see God die?”

Friday, April 4

Benedict the African, confessor; 1589

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict first lived as a hermit and labored as a plowman after he was freed. When the bishop of Rome ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a religious community, Benedict joined the Franciscans, where he served as a cook. Although he was illiterate, his fame as a confessor brought many visitors to the humble and holy cook, and he was eventually named superior of the community. A patron saint of African Americans, Benedict is remembered for his patience and understanding when confronted with racial prejudice and taunts. Use the story of Benedict’s ministry as a confessor to revisit Martin Luther’s notion of the spiritual importance of mutual consolation.

Sunday, April 6

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer’s work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther’s reforming work. Grünewald’s paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach’s work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Wednesday, April 9

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1945

Bonhoeffer (BON-heh-fer) was a German theologian who, at the age of 25, became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin. In 1933, and with Hitler’s rise to power, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, a resistance movement against the Nazis. He was arrested in 1943. He was linked to a failed attempt on Hitler’s life and sent to Buchenwald, then to Schönberg prison. After leading a worship service on April 8, 1945, at Schönberg prison, he was taken away to be hanged the next day. His last words as he left were, “This is the end, but for me the beginning of life.”

A hymn written by Bonhoeffer shortly before his death includes the line “By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet us each new day” (ELW 626, WOV 736). Bonhoeffer’s courage is a bold witness to the paschal mystery of Christ’s dying and rising.

Thursday, April 10

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557

Agricola was consecrated as the bishop of Turku in 1554, without papal approval. As a result, he began a reform of the Finnish church along Lutheran lines. He translated the New Testament, the prayerbook, hymns, and the mass into Finnish, and through this work set the rules of orthography that are the basis of modern Finnish spelling. His thoroughgoing work is particularly remarkable in that he accomplished it in only three years. He died suddenly on a return trip from negotiating a treaty with the Russians.

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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
- 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

April

- 4 Heidi Hanson, Austin Miller
- 8 Brian Rivas, Jen Ray
- 9 Margaret Mushala
- 10 Ilsa Grace Larson
- 11 Elisabeth Knauff
- 12 Ross Buntrock
- 14 Richard Mumford
- 21 Ben Cutler
- 22 Esther Sorenson
- 25 Joshua Mushala
- 27 Patricia Richter
- 28 Elizabeth Nash Kennedy
- 29 Courtney Allen

2008 Council & Chairs

2008 Congregational Council

Larry Anthony - Evangelism Liaison	202/462-2977	l-anthony@earthlink.net
Paul Beddoe - Stewardship Liaison	202/550-8946	pbeddoe@naco.org
Kelly Bowers - Property Liaison	202/388-1989	documama@yahoo.com
Carol Capps - Stewardship Liaison	301/229-2745	cj5615@verizon.net
Irene Heinemeier - Worship & Music Liaison	301/605-7050	ishjth@hotmail.com
John Isbell - Social Ministries Liaison	703/244-6968	jsi34@msn.com
David Juilfs - Christian Ed. Liaison	301/927-9458	davidjuilfs@Verizon.net
Sam Luebke - Evangelism Liaison	202/256-1067	sam_luebke@yahoo.com
John McKirgan - Finance Liaison	301/762-1879	mckirganjb@yahoo.com
Rebecca Roth - Vice President	240-463-6493	rebecca.roth@mac.com
Barbara Solt - Secretary	301/773-7963	besol@aol.com
Arne Sorenson - Finance Liaison	301/907-7993	rutharne@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Evangelism - Jim Heinemeier	301/605-7050	ishjth@hotmail.com
Stewardship - Carol Capps	301/229-2745	cj5615@verizon.net
Property - Jim Lewis	301/292-9229	prospect552@cs.com
Worship & Music - Rich Gilam	703/327-4285	rtgillam@concentric.net
Social Ministries - Brian Danaher	202/518-0935	danaher@hotmail.com
Christian Ed - Bob Luoma	202/546-1324	gluoma@boo.net
Finance - Greg Roemer	202/249-9886	greg.roemer@thrivent.com

Parish Concerns

In our prayers, let us include the following:

+ **Members:** Louise Anderson, Robert Anderson, Aaron Bonds, Pearl Cox, Celia Davenport, Kathy Garrison, Herman Davis, Sr., 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); 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); Denise Smith (Burton); Val Smith (Pizza); Caleb Richter-Tate (Richter); Diana Tate (Richter); Jim & Marge Tate (Richter); Nancy Telford (Richter); Ada Velasquez and Beimer (The Lydians); Jessica Velasquez and Kaylee (The Lydians); Jancye O. Washington (Burton); Cay and John Wiant (Larisch); Pamela Wilson (Markle-Elder); Joleita Yurchak (Roth-Renne).



+ **In Christian Sympathy:** with the family and friends of Lyle Forness, especially his brother Norman Forness. Mr. Forness died on Saturday, February 16th.

+ **In Christian Sympathy:** with Al Young, Debrah, Young, Michael Young, Christine Chase and Diane Durbin on the death of their father, Althea (Nute) Young, Sr. Pastor Theiss presided at his funeral on Wednesday, February 20th.

+ **In Christian Sympathy:** with the family and friends of Nansie Smith Word, especially her club sister, Salome Burton. Ms. Word passed away on February 8th.

+ **In Christian Joy:** with those being baptized at the Easter Vigil: Dylan Chung Roemer; Anthony Whitten, Jr.; Beimer Noil Joya, and Kaylee Sarai Joya.

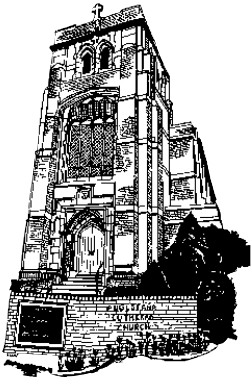
+ **In Christian Joy:** with those being received at the Easter Vigil: Melanie Caesar, Gina Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Jacqueline Nader; and Althea Young, Jr.

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

Thank you to our cadre of volunteers who help monthly to prepare the Augustanan for mailing. Those assisting last month included Salome Burton, Carol Capps, Pearl Cox, Ruth Hunter, Chuck Leath and Carol Vezzetti.

Thank you to our regular office volunteers, Salome Burton, Bruce Miller and Ingrid Margrave who assist in the office on a weekly basis.

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives



The Augustanan

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office phone: 202-234-5315
voicemail: 202-234-5312
fax: 202-234-5724
email: office@augustanadc.org
www.augustanadc.org

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Newsletter Editor:
Norman Forness

Layout:
Deidra Agbro

Assistant Editor:
Bill Riggs

Web Design & Production:
Betsy Miller

Augustana Lutheran Church
2100 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009-6507