



The Augustanan

May 2008



John Kidd
Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

I write this note a few days before beginning my ministry with you. Looking ahead I am excited as I think about getting to know you individually and in groups...about Sunday worship and fellowship á la Augustana... and about the challenges that define a church with a heart in the heart of the city – especially when that city is the nation’s capital.

Amid all this lofty anticipation, a childhood question keeps popping into mind: “Where is the first reference to baseball in the Bible?” Answer: Genesis 1:1.

Why, of all the lofty things I could be pondering, does this question keep recurring? Perhaps it is the Sunday lectionary that will have us reading Genesis from June into August...or the reference to Genesis – the beginning – that aptly describes what I will be about with you for some time to come. But the text in baseball jargon -“In the big inning God created the heavens and the earth”- adds both magnitude and good humor to the moment, even as a lowly pun.

Because God gives mission and ministry of great magnitude and majesty to Augustana, I am approaching the coming days as both a beginning and a “big inning”. I hope and pray we get off to a great start this summer. At the same time I pray that we will share the initiative, patience, persistence and humor that are essential ingredients for beginning and building the caring and collaborative relationships into which God calls us.

In the words of Ecclesiastes, two is better than one and a threefold cord cannot be broken. Jesus says that where two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also. May God bless each of our days but in the months ahead may God especially bless us as we come together.

Faithfully,

CONGREGATION BIDS FAREWELL TO PASTOR THEISS

On Sunday, May 11th a farewell potluck brunch provided the setting for members of Augustana to express appreciation to Pastor Norman Theiss for this almost two years of service as interim pastor. A letter from the congregation council inviting members to participate in the event included the following:

*“How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
Who brings good news,
Who announces salvation,
Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”*

Isaiah 52:7

Almost two years ago, Pastor Norm Theiss heard of the need for a shepherd and a healer to minister to our floundering flock gathered at New Hampshire and V. Although retired, he heard God’s call to once again serve His people. He entered our midst with a willing ear, years of wisdom and insight, and eased us from a time of trial toward a time of preparation. As we hear the stories of the first Easter, in which people were sad and confused, then saw Christ in their midst, then learned that He would be going away, but still always be with us, we find ourselves also on that journey as Pastor Theiss prepares to move on from his role as Interim Pastor.

Testimonies of how Pastor Theiss has touched us are many: “He visited daily as my mother was dying and preached her funeral sermon as though he had known her all her life.” “He visited me every day while I was in the hospital.” “His wise counsel kept us going when the days were darkest.”



“We couldn’t have asked for a better interim. He is just what we needed.”

The farewell event program included a choral offering from the Sunday School children, an offering by the Augustana choir of a musical tribute written by Dr. Tom Mitts, and a number of testimonials. The Lydians gathered as a group to thank him for his special attention, Lisa Bonds spoke of his ministry during Aaron’s illness, John Shutt spoke to his ministry of listening and caring during the transition, and John read a letter from Allen Sutherland offering tribute. John also presented Augustana’s “highest honor” – Augie the Church Mouse. Members were invited to provide notes speaking “heart to heart” which were presented unopened. A gift “purse” was also given as a thank offering. After the formal presentations, many lingered to speak individually with Pastor Theiss and members of his family who were also present.

While the tone of the day was somewhat wistful, reflecting the misty weather outside, it also was a time of laughter and celebration, testimony to the transformational work that occurred through Pastor Theiss’ ministry here. For this we say, Thanks be to God.

Barbara E. Solt
Congregation and Council Secretary

Dear Friends at Augustana,

Your many kind and affirming comments as I left Augustana assured me that you are what I hoped and worked for intently during my time among you, a community that desires beyond all distractions to be bound together in God’s love in Christ.

The greatest gift you give me is the gift you give to one another, which, of course, is given you by God’s Spirit breathing among you. It is the gift of recognizing in one another people loved by God.

If I held up a mirror to let you see yourselves as God’s people, you have held up a mirror to let me see the power and beauty of the simple message I was privileged to bear. Finally, it is God who has held up a mirror to us in Christ to show us who we are in him. So I thank you for re-assuring me of the power of the Gospel of Christ to heal a community, and I thank God for the bond I have and cherish with you all.

The generosity of the monetary gift you gave me at the May 11 farewell luncheon reflects your generosity of spirit. Thank you for the gift and for the spirit in which you gave it. I shall remember how you reached out to me, at first a stranger among you, as you reached out to one another in a generous and loving spirit.

God’s peace be with you in your life together with your new pastor, John Kidd.

Norman Theiss

Meet Our New Members



Steve Jaeger

- was born in Monterey, CA and, being part of a military family, lived “all over;”
- has been in the DC area over a year this tour. He came in March of 1999 as well.
- is married to Gina,
- loves the culture in the DC area. The traffic and the weather? Not so much!
- has been a helicopter pilot for the Navy (his Dad went to flight school with John McCain!) Currently he’s on another assignment.
- would, if he were not doing what he’s doing, work at a bike shop (or so guesses Gina),
- got a degree from Northwestern and the Naval War College,
- is a lifelong Lutheran,
- loves to run, to ride his bike and to read non-fiction history,
- came in 151ST overall in the Boston Marathon in 2002,
- is passionate about warm weather and, in particular, the warm weather in San Diego.

Gina Jaeger

- is from Pottsville, PA,
- was part of a military family as well, and lived in a variety of locales,
- is married to Steve,
- lives with Steve in the U Street Corridor, and can walk to Augustana,
- loves the cultural events in the DC area and all the friends they have met here,
- is a Healthcare Administrator for the Navy,
- would, if she were not doing the above, grow grapes and make wine – maybe in the Napa Valley,
- earned a degree from Bloomsberg U in PA and an MBA from Golden Gate in San Francisco,
- has been part of several Christian denominations,
- saw Augustana in her treks through the U Street neighborhood, and fell in love with its “old church” looks,
- is fervent about Augustana’s choir, the traditional music, the diversity – and Norm Theiss (the first Sunday she attended, we were sending a member off to be with her mom in Oregon – and that really impressed her!),
- enjoys running, wine-tasting, eating out, and her German Shepherd,
- qualified to run the Boston Marathon,
- is passionate about family, helping America’s “wounded warriors,” the healthcare system in the military – and the Democratic Party,
- has a son from a previous marriage; he’s studying civil engineering at Maryland and is in the Navy ROTC.

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives



Melanie Caesar

- is from Rochester, MN,
- lived in Japan for two years, teaching English,
- came to DC in Aug. 02,
- lives in Mt. Pleasant (two blocks from the Big Fire!),
- loves DC for the diversity and opportunities for art and culture. Does not like the allergens in the air!
- is an analyst for the NOAA, with a concentration on international partners and technology transfer,
- if she were not doing that, she'd be working with a foundation to give money to people in need,
- got her education at Notre Dame, where she was granted a master's in international development and poverty alleviation,
- was raised Roman Catholic, with some Lutheran involvements as well,
- finds Augustana to be a very welcoming church for people from a variety of backgrounds,
- likes to garden (is part of a community garden plot) and work on adult literacy issues,
- says she has a ridiculous sense of humor, after the fashion of "Anchor Man,"
- feels real passion for helping people, adult literacy, tax prep for low income people,
- says her Mom's maiden name was Julia Orr before she married David Caesar. Get it?



Al Young

- is a native of DC, being born at DC General,
- currently lives in Springdale, MD,
- is a master electrician for PEPCO,
- DeeJay's at Seabrook Skating rink in Seabrook MD,
- got his education at Bell HS and Georgetown,
- is not into religious labels,
- likes Pastor Theiss and will dearly miss him. He also liked Pastors Miller and Cox,
- enjoys cooking and fashion.
- studied theology at Ambassador College in KY and thought for a while about becoming a pastor,
- enjoys having some of his biological family at Augustana as well. His mother is Mary Andoh, and Debra, Donna and Sarita are part of his clan.



Jacqueline Nader

- is from Cary, NC, having been born in Raleigh,
- attended UC Berkeley, earning a degree in International Political Economy,
- is not related to Ralph (*although they share Lebanese roots*),
- spent four months in Argentine, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in 2006,
- lives in the 16th and U neighborhood,
- loves the museums, theater, cultural scene – and that so many of them are free!
- loves the diverse menus of DC – Ethiopian etc, which remind her of her days in the People's Republic of Berkeley,
- does not have a car and feels stuck sometimes, making it hard to get out into nature,
- is a program assistant at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, and works especially with globalization and macro-economic issues,
- dreams of working for the UN on international peace and human rights,
- had been to a Lutheran church with a friend in NC, noticed Augustana, and came on by one Sunday,
- enjoys the strong sense of community at Augustana, the diversity, the welcoming friendliness,
- likes to read (*currently Jonathan Safran Foer*), to travel – and chocolate,
- thinks you might not guess she loves to do the tango and the salsa,
- feels urgency about equality, human rights, poverty and hunger issues, especially in developing countries,
- has a brother studying law at Georgetown.

We also rejoiced at the baptisms of four little ones at the Vigil. They are Beimer and Kaylee Joya (*part of Santa Maria*), Anthony Whitten, Jr., and Dylan Chung Roemer.



Welcome, new members! We look forward to doing exciting church together!

- Jim Heinemeier

Evangelism Team Report to the Church Council

*Jim Heinemeier, Convener
Evangelism Team*

We were notified of our responsibility for the Capital Pride Festival too late to recruit adequate leadership and staffing for the June 15, 2008 event. We commit ourselves to do an excellent job in 09!

We changed the ad in the "InTowner" to reflect the fact that Marcia Cox is no longer our pastor. Hopefully, the next issue will reflect the fact that John Kidd is aboard.

We set up a poster featuring the pictures of the nine new members received at the Vigil of Easter. Their pictures and biographical sketches of the five adults will appear in the May newsletter. We interviewed and took pictures of the two people who joined ALC on the Day of Pentecost. Their narthex poster will appear shortly; the pictures and biographical information will come out in the June '08 newsletter.

We are joining the pastor, ushers and greeters in the Narthex before and after each celebration to assure our guests that we are pleased they have joined us, to get their data in the guest book, to invite them to the Happy Hour – and to urge them to return soon.

We ran an article in the April '08 newsletter promoting the hymnal ribbon project. We have 120 sets of ribbons on hand; we are ordering 60 more. When this second shipment arrives, we will schedule a work-party to insert the ribbons in our ELWs.

We are compiling system checklists for the following "Good News" activities:

- welcoming guests,
- following up of guests,
- cultivating our guests, moving them, if possible, to a decision to join the family at Augustana Lutheran Church,
- assimilating new members into the life and work of our congregation,
- sending-out members who leave our fellowship, and
- monitoring on an on-going basis our life as a Good News Circle of Jesus' people.

We are anxious to know the status of the updating of the stone sign in our front yard.

We will not meet in May or June. Our next meeting is July 20, 2008.

A Good News Church – Thoughts on Evangelism

"The Ministry of Welcoming", Jim Heinemeier

Nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine times out of a million, if you ask a group of people to form a circle, they will do so – and it will be inward-facing! Try it some time. Meanwhile, I'm SO anxious to meet that millionth group of people.

When a congregation is inward-facing, it's a delight! We see lovely people across the circle – our friends, our church family! It's so wonderful, and it's one of the primary reasons we come

to 2100 New Hampshire on Sunday mornings.

But when a guest shows up, what happens? Chances are the guest will marvel at the closeness of the inward-facing circle, how friendly they seem to be, and so on. But it takes a lot of courage and determination for a guest to step forward, tap one of us on the shoulder and say, "I'd like to be part of this lovely circle!"

The first church Irene and I visited when we arrived from Reno back in September of 2002 was a thriving suburban church with hundreds and hundreds of people present – but very inward-facing. One person talked to us. One! Needless to say, the search went on. By the way, we immediately felt warmly welcomed the first time we came to Augustana.

Lessons learned? Out circle needs to be outward-facing. I'm talking about our crucial ministry of welcoming the guests who honor us with their presence on Sunday mornings. By the way, doesn't the word "guest" work better than "visitor?"

I know of a church that observes a Three Minute Drill. That means that on Sunday morning, in the sanctuary and/or at the fellowship hour, no member is allowed to talk to anyone she or he knows until having talked to people she or he does not know – for up to three minutes. That would change the dynamics, wouldn't it? But, yes, it does sound a little legalistic.

So here are some other possibilities:

- + Every member needs to consider her/himself as an "official greeter" every Sunday. Guests love it when spoken to by people other than the official friendly people – pastor, formal greeters, et al.
- + When you meet guests, urge them as winsomely as possible to let you escort them to Happy Hour. Again, it takes a brave soul to just show up in the Social Hall.
- + When you meet a guest and get to know that person a bit, think of possible connections to other Augustanans, such as if they work at the same place or are from the same town in SD, etc.
- + We need to have a concise, colorful and informative Welcome Packet to give to our guests.
- + We urgently need to make sure our guests sign the "guest" book.
- + They do an interesting thing at Foundry Methodist. During the pre-service time of announcements, the pastor asks where people are from. Most people do not like to stand up to introduce themselves. We enjoyed standing up and saying where we were from, etc.
- + The Evangelism Team is eager to hear your ideas for welcoming.

About that Happy Hour. I usually get a smile or a grimace or a look of bewilderment when I refer to our after-celebration fellowship time as "Happy Hour." But it IS a happy time. We're with old friends – and some new ones as well! There are usually heavy hors d'oeuvres, there's an open (coffee and tea) bar, and it's a time of joy. And, weather-permitting, why not open the Social Hall doors and have the assembly spill out onto the "patio" on New Hampshire. Can you picture any better PR than passers-by noticing all the happy people – and that at a church?

Next: Our Good News Ministry of Follow-Up. Keep on doing that Good News, Augustana! See you at Happy Hour! And in church, of course!

Green Food for Thought



THE EARTH HAS
YIELDED ITS
INCREASE:
GOD, OUR GOD,
HAS BLESSED US.
PSALM 67:6

Jim Heinemeier, Green Team Convener

I'm happy to report that, as of May 15, sixty-two members of Augustana have signed up to receive their monthly newsletters electronically! That's great, Augustana! That's green!

We will, of course, continue to produce hard copies to mail to people who do not do e-mail. And we will always print a number of extra copies for our guests to pickup in the narthex.

But can you see the potential here? E-newsletters save paper; they save dollars for printer costs, paper, and postage; and they save time for our volunteer corps. It's win-win-win!

If you have not signed up yet to get your newsletter on-line, please do so today! Let's make sure that we have 162 by next month's newsletter!

In other news, "Parade Magazine" reports that "Paper bags are biodegradable, but studies show that it takes four times more energy to manufacture paper bags than plastic. The result is even more air and water pollution. Glossy shopping bags offered at department stores are even worse – the shiny coating may make them impossible to recycle. So bring a cloth or mesh tote to carry purchases wherever you go. Bonus: some stores offer a discount when you bring your own bag."

Green Team Report to The Church Council May 21, 2008

We continue to face a challenge in getting up to speed on Augustana's Green Ministry.

We're scheduling a meeting June 8th or June 15th to try and take it the next step.

At this point, our primary activity is a Food for Green Thought/Green FFT article in Augustana's monthly newsletter. The May issue will support Bruce Miller and Bill Riggs as they endeavor to get as many of Augustana's members as possible signed up to receive the monthly newsletter electronically. This will save trees, money, and time. It is a no-brainer green thing to do! We would continue to provide hard copies to members who do not have computers, as well as a number of copies for the narthex and office corridor.

I encourage all our newsletter readers who have a computer to sign up for electronic delivery of our church newsletter ASAP if you haven't already done so!

Stewardship

What Do You Think of When You Hear the Word "Stewardship"?

Is your immediate reaction, "Augustana wants money again"? Or, does the term evoke broader questions, as "how do I use my time, talent, and money? How do I treat others? What am I doing to help protect and preserve our planet?" Perhaps for many of us, the word "stewardship" conjures both reactions!

The main emphasis of your Stewardship Team is to promote the second reaction, and in order to improve our ability to do so, both the Stewardship Team and the Congregation Council are studying a book entitled "Creating Congregations of Generous People." A key question posed by the book is "What kind of people do we want to become?"

This seems to us a key question for Augustana at this point in our history as a congregation. Looking back over Augustana's past history, we see turning points when Augustana set out on new paths that led to spiritual growth as a faith community: racially integrating, become a Reconciled in Christ congregation, initiating a Latino ministry. We sense today at Augustana a renewed energy and excitement about the future as we move forward under new pastoral leadership.

Your Stewardship Team believes this is a time to "dream dreams." Over the next several months we hope to facilitate discussions among leadership and throughout the congregation of a vision for the future. If we had unlimited financial resources, what would you like to see Augustana do? Never mind that we might not be able to achieve it in the next three to five years. Where ideally should we be headed? What are some goals or programs that would really excite you and give us something to work toward – even if it takes us some time to get there?

Your Stewardship Team welcomes your visionary thoughts at any time. You can e-mail us, telephone, or grab us at hospitality hour. Team members are: Paul Beddoe, Aaron Bonds, Carol Capps, Norm Forness, Jim Heinemeier, Betsy Knauff, Barbara Solt.

And a reminder: We have created a "Green Team" which has thus far taken one small step toward making us more environmentally responsive: Everyone with e-mail is invited to receive The Augustanan electronically instead of in printed form. If you wish to do so but have not yet responded, contact Bruce Miller at bruce@millerspace.com.

Carol Capps for the Stewardship Team

Laughter Worth Sharing...

SINGING WITH THE LUTHERANS:

by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore", they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their under-wear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of Children of the Heavenly Father in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCS bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage. (For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCS is Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod and LCMS is Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, two different divisions of the same Protestant religion. And when and where I grew up in Minnesota, intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying.)
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

- * It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;
- * You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;
- * Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;
- * The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;
- * When you watch a 'Star Wars' movie and they say, "May the Force be with you", you respond, 'and also with you';
- * And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, "Good-bye".



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Celebrate World Refugee Day with Lutheran Social Services



Passport to the World 2008: Honoring the Refugee Experience

Join Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS) for the second annual **Passport to the World** gala to celebrate **World Refugee Day** and benefit the **Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS)** program.

Saturday, June 21
Fannie Mae Great Hall
3900 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC
7 p.m.
Black-tie optional

Experience the cultures of **Burma, Cameroon, Colombia, Iran, and Somalia**. Talk with refugees who have been resettled in our area through the RIS program, enjoy dances from around the world, and listen to the music of African singer KuKu. Commemorate your evening with an item from the silent auction, such as **one-of-a-kind artwork by an Iraqi refugee** who will be creating the piece at the gala.

Tickets are on sale now: \$75 for individuals/\$125 for couples. Tickets must be purchased in advanced and are expected to sell out...get yours today! Visit www.lssnca.org and click Donate Now or call Emily Moore at (301) 562-8633, ext 234.

Mailbag

May 4, 2008

Dear Augustanans,

Thanks to all of you who helped make my 65th birthday and retirement commencement truly a day to remember, hopefully, for many years to come. Special thanks to David Juilfs, Salome Burton, and Jennifer Renne for help in setting up and cleaning up the kitchen. And of course, special thanks to those of you whose birthday wishes included contributions to the Accessibility Fund. As a person who has no siblings, no spouse, and no children, it's wonderful to be part of the special family that is Augustana.

Barbara Solt

May 5, 2008

Dear Friends,

Mom and I both want to thank you all for the prayers, good wishes, and concern expressed by members of Augustana during Mom's recent hospitalizations and time in rehab. It means so much to both of us to have such a loving, supportive church family surrounding us. I am so proud to be a part of this incredible community. Thank you so much!

Susan and Josephine Pizza



May 2, 2008

Dear Members of Augustana Lutheran Church,
With thanksgiving we are grateful to receive your gift of \$100.00 for our affordable housing ministry to the low-income elderly and disabled. Your gift has been designated to The Wegner Chaplaincy Fund. We also want to thank you for our long standing commitment to our ministry together. Your congregation's gift of stewardship will help further the services that we provide for our residents. With gifts like yours we will be able to continue the long standing commitment of Fellowship Square to care for the whole person-mind, body and spirit.

Thank you again for your generous support, together we are able to continue the vision of Dr. Scherzer to provide a safe, loving and affordable housing facility for the independent elderly and disabled community.

Sincerely,
James F. Garrett
Executive Director
Fellowship Square Foundation, Inc.
250 Exchange Place
Suite G
Herndon, VA 20170

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives

CELEBRATING SUMMER WITH CHILDREN

This summer's gospel readings include stories of miracles (hemorrhaging woman healed, girl raised from the dead, feeding of 5,000, Jesus walking on water) and parables (sower, weeds among the wheat, mustard seed, yeast, parables of the kingdom). In addition to the miracles and parables, a significant number of gospel readings in the early summer focus on discipleship and commitment (the harvest is plentiful, commissioning of the disciples, the calling of Matthew, and the mission of the Twelve).

During the summer, many families find more time for travel, vacation, and refreshment, and it can be a difficult time to plan congregational worship events. Perhaps you could use it as an opportunity to do short-term or single-Sunday celebrations to generate interest and attendance in summer worship.

During the long green Time after Pentecost, families with young children might find it interesting if some part of the worship space changes from the beginning of the summer to the end. Consider making a ribbon banner that begins with mint green ribbons (or streamers) in June, adds kelly green ribbons in July, and completes it with forest green ribbons in August. Anything that draws attention to a difference from one week to another (or one month to another) can increase interest and heighten excitement for summer worship.

Summertime is a perfect time to include more children in worship-leader roles. With some targeted instruction, children can be effective greeters, ushers, and lectors as well as ministers of communion. A youth might play an instrumental anthem or kids may sing a VBS song during the offering. Most children will feel more secure when they see a peer in a leadership role, and most adults will be encouraged by the involvement and voices of the children.

Ideas for Summer

- Invite families to bring a worship bulletin back to their home church from churches they visit while on vacation. Post them on a bulletin board in the gathering space. If you are really ambitious, put up a nationwide map and ask people to put pushpins in locations where their bulletin is from.

- The festival of the Holy Trinity is celebrated on May 18TH. We may be tempted to give abstract examples of what the Trinity is like (a braid, a three-legged stool, a shamrock, a triangle, water). While we may have fun passing out shamrocks, those abstract examples (even when used during a children's sermon) are lost on most children under the age of ten. Maybe children will gain greater understanding of the Trinity if we admit that it is a difficult concept for all people to comprehend, regardless of age. Ultimately, the Trinity describes how we talk about God. Children and youth may benefit from hearing what we mean by the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) instead of using abstract concepts to explain the Trinity. This is also a perfect opportunity to reinforce that we are baptized in the name of the Trinity.

- On June 1, the story of the two houses (one built on sand, one on rock) would be a fun gospel reading to illustrate literally during a children's time. Perhaps you could build a small sandcastle on a cookie sheet or cake pan and a second castle out of hardening plaster or modeling dough.

- On July 13, 20, and 27, the gospel readings include Jesus' seed-related parables. One way to bring attention to the themes of growth and seeds would be to have a piece of posterboard by the entry to the sanctuary with a large outline of a plant, tree, or flower. Each week, families could glue a different sized seed onto the poster. The posterboard itself could be displayed the following week, perhaps with a heading such as "We Grow in Grace" or "Seeds of Faith."

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Speaking of God

**THE SYNOD PRAYER RESOURCES GROUP
INVITES YOU TO A SUMMER QUIET DAY**

led by

Pastor Wendy Moen

Associate Pastor, First Trinity Lutheran Church

Saturday, July 19 from 9:30 – 3:30

at the

Cathedral College

Washington National Cathedral

Washington, DC

**The Language We Choose for Speaking of the
Mystery of God**

Registration with lunch \$65

For more information, please contact
Pastor Bill Wegener 703-790-1469 elliwegener@yahoo.com
or Pat Henkel 703-370-4944 pathenkel@prodigy.net

(Scholarships are available - please call Pastor Wegener for consideration. Any additional contribution you care to make will help us provide future programs.)

We will appreciate receiving your registration by July 11. Please make checks to Synod Prayer Resources Group. Thank you.

Name:

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Special Requests/Dietary Preferences:

Please mail to Pat Henkel, 427 Stanton Place, Alexandria, VA 22304
or e-mail information to her



May

- 1 Kathy Garrison
- 3 Amy Yergey Gibbs
- 9 Sidney Stolz
- 12 Pauline Hancock
- 14 Tanya Gist
- 16 Phillip Assis, Jennifer Nordin
- 21 Jon Quam
- 23 Elesi Wanzunula
- 25 Robert Anderson
- 26 Charles (Eddie) Van Aken
- 27 Irene Heinemeier
- 29 Bridget McKirgan
- 30 Chris Vierling, Rayshad Whitaker

June

- 2 John McKirgan
- 3 Herman Davis, Jr.
- 8 Carol Vezzetti,
- 9 Elizabeth Bruening,
- 10 Edith Briggs
- 11 Mary Schooley
- 12 Sonvy Waidler
- 14 Tommie Robinson, Jr.
- 16 Sara Markle,
- 19 Joy Stancil
- 21 DeAnna Allen
- 22 Bruce Connor
- 26 James Lewis, Sr.
- 30 Lola Wade

2008 Council & Chairs

2008 Congregational Council

| | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|
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| 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

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
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| Stewardship - Carol Capps | 301/229-2745 | cj5615@verizon.net |
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| 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:** Josephine Allen; Louise Anderson; Celia Davenport; Herman Davis, Sr.; Dorothy Gladney; 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); Sean Castilla (Laughlin); (Teresa Cross (Knauff); Jerry Custer (Bowers); Mindy Davis (Isbell); Beverly Anderson Fauser (Louise Anderson; Patricia Franks (Knauff); Pat Frohman (Hunter); Betty Grady (Werner); Keeva Harmon (Burton); Leona Harper (Knauff); The Rev. Jane Henderson (Schilke); Irma Holderbein (Heinemeier; Guy Jacobs (Berube); Denise Kellam (Bucci); Sara Kepple (Richter); Jennifer Kileo (Hart); Kate and The Rev. Merlin Knauff (Knauff); John Larson (Kahler-Larson); Otelia Leath (Leath); Ann Lockwood (Werner); Samantha Lopez (Kahler-Larson); Celeste Lotz (Knauff); Adelaide Lusambilli (Markle-Elder); Ken Merritt (Hunter); William Moon (Wassum); Bruno Muzzi (Markle-Elder); Chris Nelson (Burch-Nelson); Grace Patterson (Burton); Josephine Pizza (Pizza); Carrie Reynolds (Knauff); Veronica Richardson (Knauff); Marvin Safrit (Anderson/Bowell); The Sharp family (Hart); Janet Spleen (Jaeger); Caleb Richter-Tate (Richter); Diana Tate (Richter); Jim Tate (Richter); Nancy Telford (Richter); Cay and John Wiant (Larisch); Joleita Yurchak (Roth-Renne).



+ **In Christian Sympathy** with Veena and Rao Thortakura on the death of Rao's brother. The Thortakura family are friends of Patricia Richter.

+ **In Christian Sympathy** with the family and friends of Brenda Wiberg, who died on Sunday, May 18th, especially her husband Carl Wiberg. Ms. Wiberg was a former secretary in the Augustana Church office. She and her family were active and faithful members of Augustana. The family established Augustana's Wiberg fund which provides financial assistance for Augustana members attending college.

+ **In Christian Sympathy** with the family and friends of Bill Reid, whose memorial service was held at Augustana on Saturday, May 10th.

+ **In Christian Joy** with the reception on Pentecost Sunday of two new members, Amy Forester and Diane Schilke.

Thank You to all who assisted with the memorial service and repast in honor of Bill Reid.

Thank You to our regular office volunteers: Salome Burton, Bruce Miller, Betsy Knauff and Ingrid Margrave for assisting with numerous tasks in the office this month.

Thank you to all who assisted with the farewell potluck luncheon and program for Pastor Theiss on May 11th.

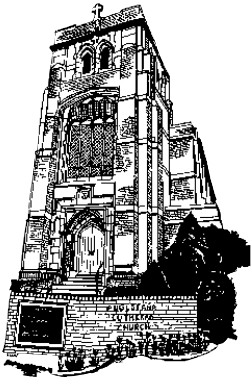
+ **In Christian Joy** with Samuel Fenton on his first communion this afternoon at the Christian Family Montessori School on April 27th.

Thank You to Mary Andoh, Josephine Allen, Deidra Agbro, Novella Bradley, Salome Burton, Pearl Cox, Norman Forness, George Krafthofer, Chuck Leath and Carol Vezzetti for helping to get the April issue of The Augustanan into the mail.

Thank You to Bruce Miller and Kevin Canfield for helping to keep the Augustana gardens weeded and cleaned. We have had many complements on the beauty of the front gardens.

WILLIAM ELLSWORTH REID
October 25, 1907 – May 2, 2008

The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives



The Augustanan

Surveying the Ministry
in Our Lives



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