

# The Augustanan

September 2007

## From The Pastor's Desk

Bishop Schneider told the Church Council last March that an important part of the Call Process is the congregation's prayer for the Call Committee.

The hardest part of letter-writing is not mailing the letter or even typing it, but deciding what to say. The hardest part of prayer is not saying the prayer, but deciding what we want to pray for. What honestly do you want to pray for? Underneath each item we think we want to ask of God lie a number of questions about what we truly want and need. Prayer needs to be earnest because it needs to be honest.

There are standard answers for what we are looking for in a pastor. We want a pastor who presides over the liturgy knowledgeably and gracefully, who preaches the Gospel with spiritual depth and relevance to our lives, who visits the sick, the troubled, the shut-in, the needy, who loves and cares about people, who tends to administrative matters, who has a vision for Augustana's future and role in this community.

But these are objective, boiler-plate standards, which we could pray for rather dispassionately. Behind each of these pastoral tasks is a role that each of us wants a pastor to fulfill for us. Each of us has had experiences with several pastors who fulfilled various roles at various times in our lives. I have come to believe that each parishioner has painted a picture of the pastor he or she wants, patterned after previous experiences with pastors. Probably that picture includes scenes of previous satisfying relations with a pastor, as well as scenes of disappointment. But always the picture depicts our personal needs.

So a more personal and passionate way to pray for the Call Committee's success in bringing us a pastoral candidate requires reflecting on what each of us is seeking in a pastor. Our prayer would include thanks for those pastors, from our childhood to the present, who have given strong support to us, our families, and friends. It may also include confession for misunderstandings we have had with previous pastors, from our childhood to the present, and the hurtful words we said or the hurtful things we did to them. It may include forgiveness for pastors, from our childhood to the present, who disappointed us. It will include pleading with the Spirit to help us understand those past relationships and our roles in them.

Such a personal, earnest searching of our own souls would help us clear our vision for what we are seeking in a pastor, what is honest, what is wholesome, what is centered on the grace of God that pastors are called to bring us.

*- Pastor Norm Theiss*

## Adult Forum Fall Preview

Adult Forum, Augustana's weekly adult Christian education series, kicked off on September 9<sup>th</sup> with a two-part series on forgiveness. A discipline that is essential to the Christian life, forgiveness is an elusive concept for many of us and often elicits varied and contradictory responses within the Christian community. This series will examine forgiveness from a biblical perspective, consider the way forgiveness can be practiced in our daily lives, and reflect on the important foundational role forgiveness plays in the life of the Church and among God's people.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Adult Forum will feature the return of "Living the Good News," the lectionary-based Bible study that anchored Adult Forum several years ago. Each week, participants will review the scripture passages designated for reading in worship on that Sunday and consider the themes they share, their relevance to the season of the church year, and their implications for Christian living.

Also, look for special announcements in the Sunday bulletin and the *Augustanan* for a video presentation on Reformation Sunday and a special series during the Sundays of Advent.

Adult Forum meets each Sunday at 9:15 am in the library.

- **Bob Luoma**

## Choir Notes

*A few questions . . .*

- Do you like to sing?
- Do you play well with others?
- Can you commit to regular attendance at rehearsals and services?

*If so, we invite you to consider the following . . .*

Special musical presentations

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bach Chorale Cantata, *Savior of the Nations, Come*
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – Lessons & Carols for Christmas Eve, and Holy Eucharist
- January 27<sup>th</sup> – Lessons & Carols for Epiphany

Choir Tour

- New Orleans, Louisiana – May of 2008

*and join the choir at Augustana Lutheran Church. Contact the director, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts, at (202) 722-6838 today!*

- **Tom Mitts**

## Sunday School Update

Sunday School is back at Augustana! Sunday School began again on Sunday, September 9, 2007. We will be using the "Witness" curriculum from Augsburg Fortress publishing, which includes creative and colorful ways to "learn from the Bible to live the good news." Each Sunday your child will bring home a leaflet which includes that day's Bible story, a worksheet, and ideas for things to do at home that week, including a family prayer.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade (ages 5 – 10) will be dismissed from worship after communion. After coming forward to receive communion or a blessing, they will be directed to the "Truman door" at the front of the church on the right. The children will meet their teacher there, and walk as a group to their classroom. They will finish at 12:30 p.m., and be escorted to the Social Hall to meet their families. Children ages 2–4 will continue to have their lesson in the nursery during the worship service.

We also will have a Prayer Partner for each child, an adult from the congregation who will pray faithfully for your child as she/he grows and learns this year. More about this in September!

We are eager to have all of our children participate. We also need the help of our parents and family members to make our Sunday School a success. Can you help with planning, gathering art materials, or teaching? Sunday, August 26, after worship, was our Teacher Training meeting in the library. Please join us in the future if you can help teach or just want to learn more. Call Sonvy Waidler any time at 301 762-1879 to discuss this program.

Sunday, September 9, was the first day of our fall session. During worship that morning, we installed our Sunday School teachers. We look forward to seeing all of you and your children at Augustana's Sunday School!

Members of the Augustana Sunday School Committee are LeeAnn Hart, Sara Markle-Elder, Sarita Olley, Sonvy Waidler, Bob Luoma (Chair of the Education Committee) and Pastor Theiss

- *Sonvy Waidler*

## Church Camp News

"Kids as Peacemakers" brought 22 kids together for this summer's Augustana Church Camp in July. Four evenings were peace-filled (not quiet, however!) as the campers created peace t-shirts, peace posters, learned about peace activists and leaders, enjoyed delicious peaceful snacks, sang peace songs and played games! The campers appreciated the wonderful group of HS and adult volunteers who made time to join in the fun. With streamers waving, donned in peace shirts and bandanas, AND playing kazoos, the campers brightened up the neighborhood of 16th and V streets!! The posters read "Honk For Peace", and "We Love Peace". As the kids jumped up and down, passers by could see the letters P E A C E held high. Loud shouts of PEACE and HONK filled the neighborhood. And the cars honked again and again and again! Everyone a Peacemaker!



- *Ruth Sorenson*

## **Augustana Call Committee**

Call Committee members Josephine Allen, Brian Danaher, Chip Fenton, LeeAnn Hart, Tommie Robinson, Rebecca Roth (ex officio) and Ruth Sorenson, chair began meeting in May. The exciting process of the search for Augustana's new pastor is underway. The tasks have included meeting with the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod Assistant to the Bishop, crafting a congregational profile, inviting Augustana members to complete a survey, compiling results of the survey, issuing a congregational "Sunday snapshot", as well as committee members engaging in thoughtful discussions within each meeting. In the next weeks, the call committee will complete the Augustana profile packet. With dialogue and approval from the church council, the packet will be sent to the Synod. In the next months, we will be receiving names of pastoral candidates and begin the interview process. The Call Committee will continue to inform the congregation of its progress with bulletin updates and Sunday announcements as well. We are grateful for the support and participation of the Augustana members and we continue to welcome any questions and comments. It has been a pleasure for us to serve Augustana.

*- Ruth Sorenson*

## **Stewardship Update**

Augustana's annual Commitment Drive is scheduled to get under way soon! That means it's time for each member of our beloved congregation to show up, to stand up and be counted on for the ministries of Jesus the Master we plan to undertake in the year to come.

Our Teams are hard at work, dreaming big dreams and seeing grand visions of what we can accomplish in 2008. And it will happen, as each of us stretches him/herself to make it happen.

The Teams will make brief presentations of their visions and dreams during the Hospitality Hours in October and November. Each Sunday, two Teams will spend three minutes each to share those visions/dreams. There will be tables/booths and many ways for us to get up to speed on what's planned for the new year.

Each of us will receive paperwork in the mail the beginning of November, asking us prayerfully to consider in what ways we are willing and eager to share our part of the load, in terms of our treasure, our time and our talents.

And then as a vital part of our worship on November 18, we will bring our commitments and offer them for God's use. Following the morning celebration we will gather in the Social Hall to enjoy some food and fellowship – and to celebrate the future of this congregation.

How much do you love Augustana? Now's the time to show and tell!

*- Jim Heinemeier, for the Stewardship Team*

## “Simply Giving” - A Reminder

The Stewardship Committee proposed, and the Congregation Council approved, the introduction of a new option for giving to Augustana’s Mission Plan for 2007. It’s called “Simply Giving” and is administered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Enrollment in the plan is optional and is for the convenience of those who prefer to contribute through automatic electronic transfers from their bank account rather than by putting their contributions in the offering plate.

We anticipate that many of us will continue placing our money or checks in the offering plate as we do now. But some of us, especially those who travel frequently or are away during the summer, may wish to adopt this new option.

If you sign up for Simply Giving, your contributions to Augustana’s Mission Plan will be made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You decide the frequency of your automatic gift – weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. Your contribution is deposited into Augustana’s bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account. All information about your gifts will be confidential, as it is now. The benefit of this plan for you is that you won’t have to catch up for missed Sunday offerings. The benefit to Augustana is steady, more predictable income throughout the year rather than the “summer low” that we now experience. Further, when you enroll, Thrivent will provide you with stickers that say “Simply Giving” so that if you wish to place something in the offering plate when you’re at worship, you can put a Simply Giving sticker on your offering envelope and place the envelope in the plate.

Please see any member of the Stewardship Committee if you have any questions.

*- Stewardship Team*

## Social Ministries Corner

Summer may have been a relaxing, lazy time for some people, but the members of our Social Ministries committee have been keeping very busy. You might ask, “So, what have you been doing?”

- Fair Trade First Sundays: We expanded the coffee and chocolate sales program to offer Lutheran World Relief fairly traded coffee on the first Sunday of every month. Sales have been percolating fast – we’ve restocked several times. Our coffee “baristas” Eric Luttamus and Sara Markle-Elder are great salespersons.
- Food for Fourth Sundays: The congregation now donates non-perishable food and other supplies on the fourth Sunday of every month! Our Augustana-Santa Maria pantry has become a steady resource for needy church members, passersby, and community neighbors such as Martha’s Table and N Street Village. Please contact Pastor Theiss if you could use some help. Many thanks to Lynn Fischer-Fox and Alan Fox for helping to stock the shelves, and to Bill Riggs for helping to unload the shelves.
- Mother’s Day was a special day of flowers at Augustana for anyone who wanted to wear a festive carnation donated by Social Ministries. A team of Brians (Brian Rivas, Brian Borders, Brian Danaher and Brian Shannon) served as ushers that day.
- We celebrated a special Father’s Day initiative for peace, when we sent phone cards and greetings to troops serving in Iraq, letting them know that we pray for peace in the Middle East and for their safe re-

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turn. The ELCA military chaplains replied, sending their thanks and offering prayers for our congregation. Many thanks to all who signed Augustana's greeting posters.

- We have sent teams of volunteers on the first Saturday of every month to serve hungry people who rely on Martha's Table. (Except for July, when we had no volunteers. Next year we want a perfect twelve month record!) Amy Yergey continues to be our team captain.
- Speaking of teams, Social Ministries helped send a team of Augustana and Santa Maria congregants to RFK Stadium to watch the Nationals play the Mets last June. Go team! Many thanks to Sam Leubke, Rebecca Roth and Pastor Phil Anderson for organizing the event and making it happen.
- Do you know what a Ljusbärare is? It's the beautiful "new" candle bearer you see to the left of the pulpit. The Swedish Church received this gift from the oldest church in Sweden and then worked with our Social Ministries and Worship Committees to place it here in our church. If you light a candle and make a donation, proceeds benefit the Social Ministries programs of our churches!
- Santa Maria Outreach: Our Spanish/English classes got off to a strong start last winter, but seemed to melt away just after the snow. It may be beneficial for the churches to get re-acquainted through social connections and worship. Please plan to attend services with Santa Maria on an upcoming "fellowship Sunday" (see our calendar) and then let's plan for the future.
- N Street Village/Luther Place Women's Shelter: Augustana provided meals on March 17<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> to the women living in the shelter at Luther Place. Our next quarterly dinner will be coming up soon – so watch your bulletin for an announcement and volunteer to cook your favorite recipe or to serve like the finest waiter or waitress in the world. It's easy! Just ask one of our organizers – Grace Morgan, Caroline Borders or Kane Borders.

Thanks for your interest. Now that you have rested up from your summer holidays, come and join the fun. Please consider helping our church to follow Christ as we show our love for our neighbors and serve those who are most in need.

*- Brian Danaher*

## **Come on Down to Martha's Table**

On the first Saturday evening of every month, Augustana Lutheran Church provides a team of two to four volunteers to help Martha's Table distribute food to hungry people. We hand out pre-wrapped sandwiches from a "mobile soup kitchen" van stationed at a corner of New York Ave., N.W. A designated driver (someone who is comfortable driving a van) is especially welcome.

What is Martha's Table? Here is an excerpt from the organization's Annual Report:

- Martha's Table's food programs operated all 365 days of the year. In 2006, we provided 302,688 meals to those in need at many locations, including parks, shelters, senior centers, and after-school programs throughout the city.
- With "McKenna's Wagon," our seven-day mobile soup kitchen, we continued to serve 1,000 evening meals to homeless families and individuals. Our vans rolled out every night serving individuals at three locations around Northwest Washington.
- At Martha's Table we provided 127,500 daily meals and snacks to at-risk children and youth. We provided 53,110 meals and snacks at our front door. We hosted 2,861 individuals (including families) for our three holiday dinners served the Sunday before each Holiday, including Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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- We also provided groceries the last Thursday of each month to an average of 315 individuals including 152 families. And, from our front door, we distributed over 29,785 loaves of bread throughout the year.

Answer the call to come down and help us support our worthy neighbor at 14<sup>th</sup> and V Streets!

- *Brian Danaher*

## Social Ministries Upcoming Events and Programs

Social Ministries will try to publicize and/or participate in the following activities, depending upon interest within the congregation:

### SEPTEMBER

September 16

**Greetings to our Students in the Holy Land** –Augustana has partnered with the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation to sponsor two Palestinian Christian children. Sign greetings to the children during hospitality time, welcoming them back to their schools for another year.

September 23

**Food for Fourth Sunday** – Food and supplies collected for the Augustana-Maria community pantry

**Share Your Summer** – Celebrate the social part of social ministries as you share with fellow Augustanans some pictures and stories about your experiences during the past summer.

**Ice Cream Social/Fundraiser** for Lutheran Social Services

September 25

**“Greening Your Congregation”** sponsored by Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, 7pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd.

Learn how a congregation can reduce energy and save money. Practical information on assessing and reducing energy use, purchasing clean, renewable energy and including environmental stewardship into teaching and worship. Rsvp to Joan Kelsch, [jkelsch@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jkelsch@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-3599. See also [www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org)

September 28

**Lutherans Concerned Metro Washington DC Annual Banquet** –

6pm reception/7pm banquet, held at Georgetown Lutheran Church. Guest speaker, Rev. Bradley Schmeling. Registration fees are either \$25 per person or \$40 for “patrons.”

September 30

**Health Fair** – Learn more about how you can be a good steward for the body God gave you! 12:15 to 1:15.

**Santa Maria Fellowship** – A volunteer from Augustana attends worship with the Santa Maria congregation

### OCTOBER

October 6

**AIDS Walk**, benefiting the Whitman-Walker Clinic. If you would like to organize an Augustana team, let us know. Anyone can register at [www.aidswalkwashington.org](http://www.aidswalkwashington.org)

**Martha’s Table**, 4:45 – 6:30pm

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October 7

**ELCA World Hunger Monthly Appeal**

**Fair Trade First Sunday** – coffees and chocolates for sale in Social Hall

**Augustana Walks Around the Block to end Homelessness** – benefiting the St. Paul Men’s Shelter; a mini-walk affiliated with the Help the Homeless Walkathon

October 28

Reformation Sunday

**Food for Fourth Sunday** – Food and supplies collected for the Augustana-Maria community pantry and kick off weekly collection for Thanksgiving food baskets

**Santa Maria Fellowship** – A volunteer from Augustana attends worship with the Santa Maria congregation

**NOVEMBER**

November 3

**Martha’s Table**, 4:45 – 6:30pm

November 4

**“Bread for the World Sunday” and appeal**

**ELCA World Hunger Monthly Appeal**

**Fair Trade First Sunday** – coffees and chocolates for sale in Social Hall

**National Lutheran Home Prep-Festival** – Donate your jewelry, crafts, knickknacks, books to be collected and sold at the NLH Festival

November 10

**National Lutheran Home Fall Festival**, 9am to 3pm

November 11

**Phone Cards and greetings to the Troops** – ELCA Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries

November 16

Thanksgiving Food Baskets – Grocery Shopping

November 17

**Help the Homeless Walkathon** -- If you would like to organize an Augustana team, let us know. Anyone can register at [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org)

**Thanksgiving Food Basket – Distribution**

November 25

**Food for Fourth Sunday** – Food and supplies collected for the Augustana-Maria community pantry and kick off weekly collection for Christmas baskets

**Santa Maria Fellowship** – A volunteer from Augustana attends worship with the Santa Maria congregation

December 2

**ELCA World Hunger Monthly Appeal**

**Fair Trade First Sunday** – coffees and chocolates for sale in Social Hall

**First Sunday of Advent – Third Annual Advent Wreath Making Workshop**

**Gifts of Hope** – kick off another season of non-commercial gift sales

December 9

**National Lutheran Home Christmas carols sing-along** – lunch at Augustana during hospitality time, followed by a drive up to Rockville, with singing to residents from 1:30 to 2:30.

**Gifts of Hope** – sales continue through Advent

Additional events – possibilities to be scheduled:

- N Street Village/Luther Place Women’s Shelter, quarterly meal any evening we choose from October through December
- Host a Namibian Missionary during October?
- Anti-Torture efforts and follow up? Amnesty International?
- Augustana Movie Nights?
- Lutherfest, November 10<sup>th</sup>, with the LVC?

- *Brian Danaher*

## **A Brief Summary of Actions 2007 Churchwide Assembly**

*The Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held Aug. 6-11, 2007, at Navy Pier, Chicago. About 2,000 people participated, including 1,069 voting members. The theme was “Living in God’s Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!”*

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson Re-Elected

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, 60, was elected to serve a second six-year term as presiding bishop. Hanson was re-elected on the second ballot with 888 votes of the 1,029 cast. Seventy-five percent of the ballots cast are required for election on the second ballot. The runner-up nominee, the Rev. Karl P. Donfried, received 73 votes. Hanson fell two votes short of being re-elected on the first or nominating ballot. He begins his second term Nov. 1. Hanson was first elected presiding bishop at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly. In 2003 he was elected president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and will serve in that role until 2010.

Assembly Encourages Restraint in Discipline of Congregations, Leaders

The Churchwide Assembly made no changes to ELCA standards for professional leaders, declining proposals that suggested specific policy changes. By a vote of 538 to 431, the assembly asked its synods and bishops to “refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining” people and congregations that call otherwise-qualified candidates in mutual, chaste and faithful committed same-gender relationships, and it called for restraint in disciplining rostered leaders in committed same-gender relationships. The proposal was adopted as a substitute for a recommendation of the Memorials Committee.

Following the decision, Hanson said, “These are words of counsel. They are not words that change the standards of the church. They reflect the mind of this assembly as it seeks to give counsel to the leaders of this church.”

The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality is currently developing a social statement on human sexuality for consideration by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Voting members referred to the task force memorials regarding same-sex blessings, ELCA clergy standards and other matters. The assembly added an amendment to its referral on clergy standards, directing the task force to “specifically address and make recommendations to the

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2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church.”

### “Book of Faith” Initiative Affirmed

The assembly endorsed “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible,” a five-year initiative to promote study of the Bible. The initiative grew out of a proposal the North Carolina Synod made to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. One recommendation stressed the importance of Scripture for believers “throughout the ages” and thanked the North Carolina Synod for proposing the initiative. It was adopted by a vote of 1,000 to 19. A companion recommendation, adopted 956 to 68, gave specific suggestions for ways to “invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing and being formed by God’s Word.”

### Education Social Statement Adopted

With a 949 to 35 vote, the assembly adopted a social statement, “Our Calling in Education,” which addresses issues of children’s faith formation, equitable access to education, quality of U.S. public schools, and support for Lutheran schools, colleges and campus ministries. The assembly also adopted the statement’s accompanying implementation actions. Several amendments were adopted, including the addition of language that addresses the specific needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities as well as students with disabilities. Social statements are significant documents adopted by the Churchwide Assembly. There are now nine ELCA social statements.

### Assembly Strengthens ELCA’s Financial Future

Striving to strengthen the future financial resources of the ELCA, voting members accepted a report with recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, appointed to study the ELCA’s funding policies and practices. By a 623 to 52 vote, the assembly received “with gratitude” the committee’s report, commended the content of the report for study and reflection throughout this church, and fostered a renewed commitment to “vigorous mission-support efforts.” The assembly called for the development of a resource for presentation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to “help congregations assess their responsible and accountable use of God’s resources commended to their care.” ELCA Assembly Extends Full Communion Relationship with Moravian Church Voting members extended the ELCA’s full communion relationship with the Moravian Church in America to the East West Indies and the Alaska Provinces of the Moravian Church in America by a vote of 999 to 23. The 1999 Churchwide Assembly adopted a proposal for full communion with the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America.

The assembly adopted several other proposals:

- + It called for a churchwide strategy for responding to HIV and AIDS to build on and deepen current denominational engagement with the pandemic in the United States and around the world. The resolution urged further prayer, charity, advocacy and education efforts. The ELCA committed \$1 million to be used for the strategy’s implementation. The assembly asked the Church Council to consider committing up to \$1 million more for implementation of the strategy.

- + The assembly invited renewed efforts by members and congregations to “reach and surpass, as soon as possible,” a goal of \$25 million in annual giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

- + The assembly said Lutherans should study the situation in Darfur, Sudan, and advocate to federal officials on behalf of Darfur, a place where the U.S. government has called the mass killing “genocide.” The action praised the presiding bishop for the efforts he and the LWF have made to address the situation in Darfur.

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+ The assembly acted on several other memorials by pointing out previous actions on the specified subject, declining to act or referring them to the Church Council and churchwide units.

*- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Communication Services*

## Today's Devotions: Jim's Corner

Augustana Lutheran Church Prayer and Healing Mission Statement

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

James, Chapter 5, 13-16

Song: Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound

"Truly I say to you, whoever say to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the Sea" and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted to you."

Mark 11:23-24

Augustana prayer and healing service takes place every Thursday in the social hall. All are welcome to join us. Starting today we will be praying for our church, church leaders. Call Committee and praying that God will direct the right person to lead this congregation. Join us in prayer every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. No matter where you are, at home, at work, in your car or on vacation, our Church needs your prayers.

Words to Live by:

The man in today's scripture reading had been crippled for thirty-eight years. He spent every day of his life lying on a mat by the pool of Bethesda, hoping for a miracle. One day Jesus saw the man lying there in need. It was obvious that he was crippled but Jesus asked the man a strange question: "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6).

The man's response was interesting. He began listing all of his excuses. "I'm all alone. I don't have anyone to help me. Other people have let me down. Other people always seem to get ahead of me. I don't have a chance in life." Jesus didn't say, "Yes, friend, I agree with you. You've had a tough time." No, Jesus looked at him and said, "If you are serious about getting well, if you are serious about getting your life in order, if you really want to get out of this mess, here's what you must do. Get up off the ground, take up your bed, and be on your way." When the man did what Jesus told him to do, he was miraculously healed:

That's a message for us today. If you are serious about being well, if you really want to be made physically and emotionally whole you must get up and get moving with your life. No more lying around feeling sorry for

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yourself. Stop making excuses; stop blaming people who hurt you. Trust God, get up, and step into the great future He has for you.

Let Us Pray

Thank You Father for making me the way I am, with all my strengths and weaknesses. Help me to enjoy being the person you created, and to live each day knowing that you have placed me on earth at this time on purpose. Thank you for giving my life meaning and significance. Amen

May God Bless You and Keep You in His Grace.

God is good - (response)-All the time

I will see you next month.

- *Jim Lewis*

## **Parish Concerns**

+ Members: Mary Beth Blegen, Aaron Bonds, Ardelle Burton, Pearl Cox, Celia Davenport, Herman Davis, Sr., Dorothy Gladney, Bill Reid, Don Werner.

+ Friends and Family: Edith Bowers (Bowers); Judith Bremner (Bradley); Judy Cashner (Cashner); Mindy Davis (Isbell); Ray "Bud" Erickson (Kennedy-Nash); Robert Kyle Evans (Schipp); Patricia Franks (Knauff); Lyle Forness (Forness); TraciLynn Fox (VandenBosch); Pat Frohman (Hunter); Betty Grady (Werner); Mary Hancock (Knauff); Leona Harper (Knauff); Mary Elizabeth Jacobs (Berube); Denise Kellam (Bucci); Sara Kepple (Richter); John Larson (Kahler-Larson); Sylvia Lauttamus (Lauttamus); Ann Lockwood (Werner); Celeste Lotz (Knauff); Sally Markle (Markle-Elder); Lois Merritt (Hunter); Bruno Muzzi (Markle-Elder); Chris Nelson (Burch-Nelson); Francisco Otero (Pizza); Marion Papacosta (Roth-Renne); Susan Papp (Lenhart/Ray); Rachelle Portner (Hart); Mary Ann Richardson (Kennedy-Nash); Veronica Richardson (Knauff); Rich & Norma Shirey (Hart); Iris and Juan Sosa (Leath); Deborah Tang (Burton); Caleb Richter-Tate (Richter); Nancy Telford (Richter); Richard Tepel (Schipp); Marion Wagley (Capps); Joan Wassum (Wassum); Nellikan Wernicke (Baerwald); Pamela Wilson (Markle-Elder); Joleita Yurchak (Roth-Renne).

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

+ Thanks to all of you for your prayerful support of the Call Committee as we continue our work. The Augustana Call Committee has met each month since May to keep the momentum of the pastoral search moving forward. Participation for the member survey was strong, a congregational profile has been written and completed and the first congregational Sunday "snapshot" was issued. Tallies for the data were compiled and discussed. The committee has enjoyed lively and thoughtful dialogue as it engages in a variety of tasks to prepare a complete packet reflecting the Augustana congregation for presentation to the Synod and the perspective Pastoral candidates. The call committee will meet with the Augustana Congregational Council to review the materials before presenting the packet to the Synod in September. We anticipate the interview process to begin in the fall. Respectfully, The Augustana Call Committee

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- + On Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> we said Farewell to long-time member, Dorothy Schipp, who has moved to Tennessee near her son Derek Johnson and his family. God Speed good friend
  
- + In Christian Joy and Celebration on the baptism on August 26<sup>th</sup> of Michael William McClane-Whittaker, son of Ashley McClane. We welcome this new member of the Christian family.
  
- + In Christian Sympathy on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> with Dorothy Smith on the death of her cousin, Mary E. Richardson of North Carolina.
  
- + In Christian Joy and Celebration of the witness and service of Tommie L. Robinson, Jr. and Robert Joppa, who were part of the Metro Washington D.C. ELCA Synod's deputation to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Chicago the first full week of August.
  
- + In Christian Joy with Kaia Lenhart and Jen Ray on the birth of their son, Joshua Lee Lenhart-Ray on Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.
  
- + In Christian Sympathy with the family and friends of Jennifer Reed, especially Rebecca Roth and Jennifer Renne.
  
- + In Christian Joy and Celebration with Clarence Briggs, Wayne Briggs, Carolyn Gist, and Isaac Sorenson who will be confirmed on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.
  
- + In Christian Sympathy with the family and friends of Rex Baker, especially Tommie Robinson, Jr. Mr. Baker died Memorial Day weekend.
  
- + In Christian Sympathy with the Rev. Phil Anderson of Santa Maria, on the death, May 28<sup>th</sup> of his mother Anna E. Anderson at Amery, Wisconsin. She is survived by her husband Vernon Anderson (a retired ALC Bishop) and three other sons.
  
- + In Christian Sympathy with Mike and Laura Gertz on this death of Mike's mother, Mary Pat Gertz
  
- + In Christian Sympathy with the family and friends of Effie Berry on her death, especially Salome Burton.
  
- + In Christian Joy with Jennifer Renne and Rebecca Roth on the birth of Jackson Renne Roth on Sunday, June 10, 2007.
  
- + In Christian Joy with Donald Werner on the birth of his grandson, Brayden Kane on May 25, 2007.
  
- + In Christian Joy with our brothers and sisters of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod upon the election of Richard Graham as our next bishop.

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+ In Christian Joy with our brothers and sisters in Christ of Faith Lutheran Church, Ormond Beach, Florida on the installation of the Rev. Dr. Marcia Cox as their pastor on Sunday, June 24, 2007.

+ In Christian Joy and Celebration with Caroline Border, Kane Borders, and Julia Reed who were confirmed on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

+ In Christian Joy and Celebration of the witness and service of Augustana's representatives at the Synod Assembly held June 7-9, Pastor Theiss, Eileen Crawford, George Krafthofer, Barbara Solt and Sid Stolz. Tommie Robinson, Jr., who serves as the Synod Vice President also be attended as a voting member of the Assembly

+ In Christian Joy and Celebration with our high school seniors who graduated this Spring. Courtney Allen graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. She will be attending Vanderbilt University this fall. Esther Sorenson graduated from Maret High School on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Esther will be attending St. Olaf College in Minnesota starting this fall.

## Birthdays

### September

- 3 Kevin Horsted, Josephine Allen
- 8 Don Werner
- 11 Martin Stancil,
- 12 Ruth Sorenson
- 13 Eric Luttamus, Tom Mitts, Ashley McClane
- 19 Alex Nash, Lydia Waidler McKirgan, Duncan Waidler McKirgan
- 21 Marsha Jones,
- 24 Sally Larisch,
- 26 Douglas Anderson, Judith Bucci

### October

- 4 Isaac Sorenson
- 11 Jocelyn Mushala
- 12 Pearl Cox
- 13 Arne Sorenson, Isaac Sorenson, Kupewa Mushala
- 18 Larry Anthony
- 19 Charles Leath,
- 20 Tom VandenBosch
- 22 Mary Beth Blegen, William Reid
- 29 Anna Bavier



## Meet New Members

Victoria (Tory) Bowen became a member of Augustana during the recent Easter Vigil. A native of Los Angeles, where she studied classical piano at a school for the performing arts, Tory got her B.A. in Political Science and Russian Language at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. While a student, she spent a summer interning on Capitol Hill and fell in love with D.C. After returning home to the West Coast for a year (and improving her

### **The Augustanan + Surveying the Ministries in our Lives**

golf game), she came back to D.C. in June 2006. In addition to working full-time for the governmental relations branch at Bristol-Myers Squibb, Tory has started her own fundraising company, Bowen Development Consulting, LLC. Volunteering is an important part of her life; she shares her time and talents with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area, the National Marrow Donor Program, and Soldier's Angels. She also recently completed a half-marathon to benefit Stop the Silence, an organization working for the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse.

Tory was initially drawn to Augustana by its location--a two minute walk from her apartment. When she came for the first time, she was struck by the beauty of church's architecture and interior. She also enjoyed the warm welcome she received from everyone, including Pastor Theiss, who on that particular Sunday was back in the pews instead of the pulpit. She would love to see Augustana add a Bible study program and is interested in getting involved with fundraising, music, or social ministry efforts.

Joyce Byamungu Waguti came to the United States from Tanzania in 1995. She completed a degree in hotel management at Morgan State University in Baltimore, in 2005. Until recently she was a chef at the 21& P Restaurant. She is currently seeking new employment. She is the daughter of Margaret Mushala, who describes her as a happy, hard working, understanding, and reliable young lady, willing to help anyone who needs her help, without complaining, happy only to know that she was able to help.

### **Please Join All Augustanans in this daily prayer**

**"Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for the congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"**

*- The Call Committee*

### **Mission Statement**

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

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

# **The Augustanan**

*Surveying the Ministry in Our Lives*

## **Augustana Lutheran Church**

2100 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20009-6507

office phone: 202-234-5315, voicemail: 202-234-5312, fax: 202-234-5724

email: [office@augustanadc.org](mailto:office@augustanadc.org), web: [www.augustanadc.org](http://www.augustanadc.org)

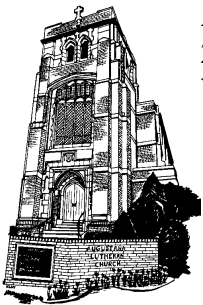
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Newsletter Editors: The Rev. Norm Theiss, Rebecca Roth

Assistant Editor: Bill Riggs

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**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
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**Washington, DC 20009-6507**

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