

The Augustanan

November – December 2009

From the Pastor

John S Kidd

Wake Up!

This is the advent message: The Messiah is coming. It is time to wake up!

Over the coming Sundays in English and Spanish, Augustanans will hear wakeup calls from the prophets Jeremiah and Malachi, Isaiah, Zephaniah and Micah... and from John the Baptist and his mother Elizabeth.

You are invited to wake up in a variety of ways.

- ❖ Make an advent wreath for your home devotions and worship with Chris Vierling on November 29.
- ❖ Join our children and youth in the celebration of Santa Lucia at 5:00 on December 13.
- ❖ Bring a holiday favorite food for a 1:00 covered dish lunch on December 20. It will be the prelude to an afternoon of decorating the church and singing Christmas carols in the neighborhood. The day concludes with the Misa of our community of Santa Maria.
- ❖ Weave together these weeks of Advent, with an Advent guide that provides a daily Advent reading and thought as you prepare for the Messiah's coming to your house.

The wake up call does come to each of us. On December 24, come share Christmas Eve Vespers and sing the Christmas story at 4:30 with children, parents and friends. Then lift up your voice at 10:00 as we sing carols, say Amen to the Christmas stories and join our Eucharistic thanksgiving. Then you can wake up to a new Christmas day by rolling out of bed and into church at 10:30 for an informal Christmas Eucharist.

The Messiah is coming. It is time to Wake Up!

Open your hearts and minds so that the King of Glory can come in. Who is the king of glory? Christ the Lord. He is the king of glory!

May your Christmas open your eyes to the grace, peace and joy that are yours!

John



Advent to Christmas

Advent 1 November 29
10:30 Eucharist 5:00 Vespers

Advent Wreath Making
After the service in the Social Hall

Advent 2 December 6,
Feast of Saint Nicholas
10:30 Eucharist 5:30 Misa
4:00 Santa Lucia Festival in Swedish

Advent 3 December 13
Feast of Saint Lucia
10:30 Eucharist
5:00 Santa Lucia Festival
Vespers - Visperas
Augustana – Santa Maria

Advent 4 December 20
10:30 Eucharist 5:00 Misa

Greening of the Church
Holiday Potluck Lunch at 1:00
then decorate the church and
carol in the neighborhood.
The day ends with the Misa.

Christmas Eve December 24

3:00 Service in Swedish
4:30 Vespers
*a multicultural, intergenerational
celebration of the light.*

**10:00 Lessons and Carols
with Eucharist**

Christmas Day December 25

*10:30 Eucharist –
Come as you are.*

From The Council Carol Capps, Vice President

It's been a good year at Augustana. Thanks to everyone's generosity, it looks certain that we will end the year financially in the black, which is not the case every year!

The Welcoming Place Appeal was a huge success, easily surpassing its \$120,000 goal and allowing us not only to replace the roof, complete other repairs, and make up a shortfall in mortgage pledges, but also to expand our outreach and support to our neighborhood and beyond. Special thanks to the Social Ministry Committee for thinking through how to allocate our \$15,000 tithe from the Appeal among neighborhood groups (Martha's Table, N Street Village), our city (Pastoral Discretionary Fund, DC Habitat for Humanity, Transitional Housing Corp., St. Paul's Shelter for the Homeless), and our world (Pakistani Orphans' ministry, Bread for the World, Lutheran World Relief, Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation for Schools in Palestine, and Washington Religious Campaign Against Torture). In distributing checks to these groups on All Saints Sunday we were able to celebrate our role in continuing and expanding Augustana's outreach to people needing help.

Also, our 2010 stewardship campaign is off to a good start. Prior to commitment Sunday we received 14 pledges (in part from Council members who had agreed to get pledges in early) amounting to over \$66,000. We hope to match at least the number of pledges (100 plus) that were made to the Welcoming Place Appeal. The lack of a tenant thus far to help defray some of our building expenses is a cause of uncertainty for the coming year, but we have a real estate agent who is actively helping us find a school or some other group whose mission is consistent with our core values.

Equally important, Augustana members have shown renewed energy and commitment of time and talent to our communal efforts. We have seen new faces as lecturers, ushers, deacons, acolytes, and choir members. Committees have new leadership, and hospitality hour – an important time for getting to know each other better – has a few more helpers (though we can always use more). Also, small groups – on diversity, and most recently, on prayer – have met over soup suppers – for in-depth discussion of issues important to Augustanans. And the women of the Lydians recently sponsored a Silent Auction, with hors d'oeuvres and wine, that was both a fun social evening and that brought in \$10,000 thanks to those who offered enticing items for bidding and to those who succumbed to the excitement and kept increasing their bids.

As the Advent and Christmas season approaches, there are many opportunities for celebrating our faith and participating in special seasonal activities. I hope you will take advantage of these special opportunities to prepare for and celebrate the birth of Christ as we celebrate also Augustana's role in our neighborhood, city, and world.

On Stewardship Paul Beddoe, Stewardship Chair

On Sunday, November 22 – the Feast of Christ the King – 33 Time and Talent Pledges, 46 Mission Pledges and 18 pledges toward mortgage payments were carried to the altar and offered up along with the bread and wine and other gifts. This was a great initial response to our shared challenge to step up our commitment in time and in dollars to living out the beliefs and values we affirm. *continues*

on next page

A Challenge to Step Up: In 2009 we undertook the Welcoming Place Appeal to meet our mortgage obligations as well as complete needed repairs. Our challenge this year and next is to step up our giving to

the level where we do not need special appeals to fulfill our budgeted obligations

Your Time and Talent Pledge commits time and energy to activities and tasks that give flesh to our core values. Whether in

worship, community service or basic church operations, we rely on one another to meet the expectations we set for Augustana.

Your 2010 Mission Pledge commits dollars to the costs associated Augustana's worship, community life, outreach, facilities, staffing, and mortgage payments – projected to total \$700,000 in 2010.

If you have already sent in your pledges – THANK YOU for your generosity in this difficult economic time! If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please consider what you can do, and either place your pledge in the offering on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

Vital Statistics Mr. Bill Riggs, Parish Administrator

On October 25, 2009 Augustana celebrated the Baptism of Mary Sotos and welcomed her into our membership.

Deleted: ¶

Augustana has also welcomed the following individuals into its membership

October 4, 2009

Jeff Mason
Diane Quest
Chris Rose

October 18, 2009

Joel A. Beard
Monica M. Benolkin
Scott K. Benolkin
Daniel J. Nejfelft

Alexandria L. Padre
Sarah L. Padre
Stephen H. Padre

Looking Ahead, we lift up the following as they celebrate the gift of life in the coming months:

DECEMBER

1	Alexander Brown,	30	Deborah Johnson	15	Alan Sutherland
1	Grace Fenton	JANUARY		16	Dylan Roemer
2	Peter Berube	1	Kalvin Mushala	17	Todd Johnson
3	Carol Kraemer	4	Bonnie LePard	18	Todd Andrews
4	Astri Sorenson	5	Christian Miller	20	Kurt Carroll
8	Brian Danaher	5	Brian Shannon	22	TaNea Davis
14	Grace Morgan	7	Nichole Wade	23	Michael Bucci
17	Rebecca Roth	12	Ariana Watson	24	Paul Miller
18	Novella Bradley	14	Jennifer Bailey,	30	Deon Rhode
28	Kevin Canfield,	15	Stephen Mushala	31	Betty Anderson

A Membership Note: At its November meeting, the Congregational Council endorsed a recommendation to remove the names of 231 individuals from the membership roles of Augustana. This was the conclusion of a six- month review process led by the pastor with the advice and input of a dozen long- term members of the church. The list will be included in the annual report of the congregation that will be circulated in January. The total membership of Augustana is some 410 individuals.

Confirmation

Water is Life

Eight teenagers are preparing for confirmation. In their second years are Alex Brown, Olivia Brown, Jose Granados, Ronald Granados, Ana Reyes and Evelyn Romero. Monique Agbro and Kelaji Mushala have started this fall. Their instructional team includes Bruce Miller, Keyla Montano, Kate Kidd and Pastor Kidd. Parents have helped with transportation and lunch.

To better understand the power of water, the group made a trip Great Falls and the canal paths that run along the Potomac. In the falls' white water and rushing currents, the group saw the raw power that can drown. On the other hand, the calm canal waters served to transport life- sustaining foods and materials. Realizing

that water can be life giving and life ending, the group has adopted two Lutheran World Relief projects. The goal is to raise \$650 by May to provide a community water system to a community in Africa and a water filtration system to a village in El Salvador. To reach this Water is Life Goal, the group is undertaking two projects.

Eat Home Made Christmas Cookies!

On December 12 the group will have a home-made Christmas cookie baking marathon. Augustanans are invited to order and purchase a small plate of cookies (\$10) or a large plate (\$25) that you can pick up after church in the Social Hall on December 13. To place an order, contact Keyla at 202-569-4165 or ckeyla16@hotmail.com.

During Advent you will see a Water is Life

bottle by the baptismal font. You are invited to lose weight for the holidays by emptying your pockets and pocketbooks of spare change by putting it in the bottle.

Of Note

Silent Auction Results: The Lydians report that, with a good night had by all on November 14, the 170 donated items on the block generated over \$10,000 in winning bids that will support the life and outreach of the church. Thanks and congratulations to all the Lydians but especially Doris Lewis and Ruth Hunter who chaired this undertaking.

Adequate Words of Thanks are hard to find for expressing the pleasure Augustanans have taken in the rich tenor voice of Don Werner and the high notes of soprano Karoun Demirjian. Karoun has already left DC for Boston. In late December, Don will be moving closer to his mother in Florida. We will bid Godspeed to Don on Sunday December 20.

How We Pray: Fifteen Augustanans engaged in a lively discussion about the way in which we pray at Augustana and expressed a range of views. True to Augustana tradition, the discussion concluded with an agreement to disagree. Early next year, Pastor Kidd will circulate a survey and invite Augustanans to one or two discussion opportunities. Can we improve in our approach to prayer? He hopes everyone will take advantage of opportunities to have their opinions heard by fellow Augustanans.

Day of the Jesuit Martyrs: Responding to an invitation from the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, 24 individuals gathered at Augustana on Christ the King Sunday to remember “los martires jesuitas” by doing a procession around the block which followed “la cruz subversiva”, recounting the story of their martyrdom twenty years ago and to ponder what it means for us today. The violence of those days remains close to us today. Oscar Fuentes, the nine year old nephew of Augustanan Theofilo Fuentes who was killed by a gun shot through the door to his apartment, was buried on Saturday.

Want to be a Welcomer? The Evangelism committee is instituting the position of Welcomer – a person designated to greet visitors at the end of the service. As one committee member observed, “This is great. I can never get to church in time to be an usher but this comes at the end. I can do this! If you are interested, chat with Fred Bowell or Sam Luebke.

Calling All Gardners: Saturday morning on December 5 provides the final opportunity of the year to get bulbs into the ground and add to the beauty of our grounds. Let Kate Kidd know if you plan to participate.

Altar Flowers: To encourage this great way to celebrate a loved one, in January the sign up charts to sponsor flowers, candles, and bread & wine will be placed on a kiosk in the Social Hall. The Worship and Music Committee endorsed the following recommendations for giving: Flowers for a regular Sunday - \$50 and for a special occasion - \$100; Candles - \$20; and bread & wine - \$10.

A Gift List for Augustana

Enrich Augustana's Music and Choir Program with an end of the calendar year gift. We celebrated the end of the church year on Christ the King Sunday with fantastic music arranged and conducted by Dr. Mitts. Our choir was complemented by a small orchestra. Your gifts this year provide the foundation to plan for next year.

Help decorate the church with a gift of poinsettias. Complete the enclosed order form and either bring it to the social hall after church with your check or mail it to the church office.

Gifts of Hope through Lutheran and other partner agencies and ministries will touch lives, meet needs and add joy for people who need to know Christ works through caring neighbors. Grace Morgan will be receiving Gifts of Hope in the Social Hall on December 6, 13 and 20 after the service.

A Special Occasion When you want to share a special occasion with others, remember a loved one or honor a friend through a tribute gift, small or large, think of Augustana. Here are some wishes Augustanans have recently expressed:

- Three to six new robes a year for Deacons and Acolytes over the next three years (\$75 each).
- A larger table to meet our liturgical needs in the rear of the church. The current one is too small. (\$750)
- An upgrade to our sound system to provide a link to the nursery and our nursery volunteers (\$1,000) and for recording our services so that we can share great occasions like the Christ the King celebration (\$2500).
- A concert quality piano for our sanctuary. Best guess: \$15,000 to \$25,000.

The Most Unique Gift Decisions people ever make occur when they are planning their estates. As you select the beneficiaries for your will, life insurance policies, or other bequests, remember Augustana Lutheran Church.

La Comunidad de Santa Maria

Each Sunday at 5:00 our Spanish speaking community of Augustanans gathers to celebrate the Misa – which actually gets started at about 5:25. The group has been growing. Little more than a year ago, six or eight people came on a typical Sunday. Now it 15 to 20 regularly sit in the pews. Like their English speaking counterparts, the congregation can be divided into three groups– those who live in the immediate neighborhood, those living in other DC neighborhoods, and those coming from Maryland and Virginia. For Christ the King Sunday, visitors came from Sherman Street, Langley Park and Springfield Virginia.

The group begins the service by gathering around the baptismal font for the rite of confession. When that is conclude, the acolyte lights the candles for the torchbearers and the congregation processes down the center aisle as it chants the verses sung in vespers. Some days the procession leaves the church to go around the block before heading down the center aisle. On the third Sunday of the month the Rite of Healing is incorporated into the service and on the last Sunday the misa is said in the context of vespers. As the congregation has grown, the repertoire of hymns sung with gusto with the accompaniment of guitars and piano has also increased.

As in the morning, the people gather around food in the Social Hall following the service. Tables are rearranged to make it possible for the congregation to share the same table with one another. Rice and tamales are frequent treats along with the sweets left over from the morning. With good food comes good conversation and a growing sense of connectedness with one another. Life's joys and sorrows are shared. There is laughter and a sense of pleasure in being a community of God's people together.

Virtually everyone in this congregation has one or more jobs to do for the service to happen. Whether setting up or breaking down the free standing altar, serving in the processions, reading, playing the guitar or preparing the food, the work of hands and hearts is contagious. We are especially indebted to Louis Reith who is the resident pianist for la Comunidad. Keyla Montano serves as Asistente Pastoral, and Pastor Kidd presides and preaches.

An Advent Letter from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

Advent 2009

Sisters and brothers in Christ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

I greet you with the words of the apostle Paul to the Romans: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand" (Romans 5:1-2a).

Where does the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) stand today? We stand together in God's grace, but we are not standing still. We proclaim Jesus Christ and are fully engaged in this mission by actively caring for the world that God loves. God's mission is serious work that calls for serious commitment. We bring all that we are -- especially our rich diversity, our shared tradition and even our disagreements -- in service of God's mission. We go forward in this mission trusting that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Evidence abounds of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon us and through us:

- Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Naples, Fla., recently purchased land for new ministry center. They also convened ELCA partners, seminaries, synods, and churchwide staff to envision together a vibrant, evangelical and multicultural Lutheran presence in southwestern Florida.
- Our new directors of evangelical mission, based in synods, are trained and ready to serve ELCA congregations that they might continue to grow as evangelical centers for mission.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi told Global Mission colleagues traveling in the region that they are ready to deepen their relationship with the ELCA so that together we can more generously and faithfully respond to malaria, HIV and AIDS. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, ELCA coordinator for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, writes, "The ELCA, especially through the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, will be part of a movement that changes the world. It's certainly going to change Malawi."
- In summer 2009, 37,000 youth, young adults and adult leaders attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. They spread throughout the city, wearing orange t-shirts in a witness of service that touched the hearts of residents and has them talking still.
- ELCA chaplains Michael Lembke, Richard Brunk and Paul Dirksmeyer bore witness to God's mercy at Fort Hood, Texas. They ministered to families, friends and an entire nation grieving the tragic shootings at the nation's largest military base.

These are just a few examples. Think of the signs of the Holy Spirit being poured out in your life and in your congregation! Thanks be to God for this continued outpouring of the Spirit among us.

When the ELCA Church Council faced the reality of reduced financial resources for mission, it made a difficult but necessary 10 percent budget reduction. The decision, however, does not diminish our resolve and commitment to engage together in God's mission for the life of the world.

We will engage Christ's mission with everyone who stands together in God's grace, using the rich gifts that the Holy Spirit has poured into our lives:

- Together we will proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord in worship spaces and workplaces, in online conversations and around kitchen tables.
- Together we will develop new ministries in every synod in multicultural communities and among people living in deep poverty.
- Together we will raise up and welcome faithful, wise and courageous leaders by sustaining vital and creative seminaries and campus ministries.
- Together we will send missionaries to accompany new and growing Lutheran churches throughout the world.

I invite you to deepen this conversation with me in an online town hall forum on Sunday, December 6, at 4:30 p.m. (CST); check www.elca.org for more details.

The apostle Paul wrote that where the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us, hope abounds and hope does not disappoint us (Romans 5:4-5). What a wonderful promise this is as we now enter the season of Advent! With our hope in Christ, we face the future together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving the world that God so loves.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



2009 ORDER FORM
for CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS AND GREENS

I/We wish to order poinsettia(s) and/or greens
to adorn Augustana this Christmas.

Name(s) _____

I would like to give my flowers/greens

- ____ To The Glory of God
- ____ In Memory of _____
- ____ In Honor of _____
- ____ In Thanksgiving for _____

I will pick up my flowers:

- ____ After the Christmas Day Service
- ____ I will leave my flowers to adorn the Church during the Christmas Season

The number of poinsettias I wish to order is:

_____ @ \$15.00 per poinsettia = \$_____

I wish to make the following cash gift for the purchase of greens \$_____

My total gift order is \$_____

My payment is attached.

The final day to place order is Sunday, December 20th.

Payment must accompany this form.

Please make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church. Please give your order form to any member of the Worship and Music Committee during the hospitality hour or submit it to the church office.



Celebrating Advent

Advent is one of the few Christian festivals that can be observed in the home as well as at church. In its association with Christmas, Advent is a natural time to involve children in activities at home that directly connect with worship at church. In the home an Advent wreath is often placed on the dining table and the candles lighted at meals, with Scripture readings preceding the lighting of the candles, especially on Sunday. A new candle is lighted each Sunday during the four weeks, and then the same candles are lighted each meal during the week. In this context, it provides the opportunity for family devotion and prayer together, and helps teach the Faith to children, especially if they are involved in reading the daily Scriptures.

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