

**Sunday
Mornings at
Augustana**

9 am Education Hour*

9:45 am Coffee /

Fellowship

10:15 am Worship

***Education Hour
on Sundays**

- The Well Adult Education series Sundays during the Education Hour
- Sunday School for children ages 3 through confirmation

Upcoming Worship Services

Jan. 1: Holy Communion Service

Jan. 8: Service of Word & Music

Jan. 15: Holy Communion Service

Jan. 22: Service of Word & Music

Jan. 29: Holy Communion Service



Allen Zumach, St Paul, www.zumach.net

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May the Birth of Lord Jesus Christ bring you hope and love, peace and joy in the New Year.

I have been doing a lot of reflecting these past few months regarding the ministry and mission of Augustana. In the season of Christmas we are reminded that in Jesus, God achieved the perfect synthesis of divine and human. God gave humanity the vision of the whole and assured us that we could be at home with that vision. The incarnation of Jesus demonstrates that God meets us where we are. It assures us that we do not have to leave the world or relinquish our humanity in order to know God, but simply that we must let go. In the birth of Jesus, we have been consecrated in truth, so we are sent into the world to continue the saving pattern of embodiment. We tend to fear incarnation precisely because it makes religion so real, so particular, and so worldly. We prefer to keep religion on the level of word, yet Jesus' pattern is word becoming flesh. For the Christian, power is always hidden in powerlessness, just as God was hidden in a poor baby. We

may want the spiritual without the fleshy; we may want the cosmic without the concrete.

But the Word is ever to be loved and shared, we must risk embodiment, which is always concrete and ordinary. There we will find God both perfectly hidden and perfectly revealed.

I encourage you to hold on to the Word made Flesh as you begin the hard work of letting go of the building and other symbols that have shaped and informed your faith. I will be praying for you. I know this will be hard, but God has a plan which may seem to be hidden but perfectly revealed in due time. Remember each of you has been called to be the embodiment of Christ: you are the hands and feet of Christ. They may be old and tired but the still leave their marks on the people you touch.

Thank You for calling me as your Pastor. I have been honored to preach the

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Church Staff & Contact List

Rev. Michelene Verlautz
Senior Pastor
Email: mverlautz@augustanamps.org
Phone: 612.810.5923

Lee Ann Eklund
Organist, Choir Director

Cynthia Livingston-Harrison
Nursery Aide

Shirley Martinson
Custodian

Sheryl Saul
Admin. Assistant

Rev. Mark Peterson
Executive Director,
Community Emergency Service

Women of the ELCA

Ingrid Johnson, President and Vicky Mahoney, Secretary

WELCA NEWS

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:13

A new years brings new challenges and new beginnings. We do not know what lies before us, but we know Who holds the future—our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the beginning and the end.



Although there is no general meeting scheduled, we encourage members and others to attend one of the circles. You may contact Margaret Sorensen or Ingrid Johnson for more information.

ADVENT TEA

The Advent Tea was held on Saturday, December 4. President Ingrid Johnson welcomed everyone. Members of the Ruth Circle served a brunch of fruit soup, breads with cheese and meat, and cookies. Devotions were given by Anne Carlson.

The program was given by the Minneapolis Southside Singers, a group to which Berde Grass belongs. The chorus sang a number of Christmas songs, both secular

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Augustana's Servant Heart:

Spotlight on Missions

Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from a letter received from the Sack family in December. The complete letter is posted on the Missions bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Dear Supporting Congregations:

Please see the picture below of our new granddaughter, Kaya Evelyn, who was born on October 21.

We continue our ministries in music, counseling and teaching. It is such a privilege to be allowed to do God's work in a culture other than our own. Not only do we sense we are making a contribution, but we are also being stimulated by the Japanese and their own understanding of God and how God works in this culture.

May the Grace of Christ accompany you each day.

Jim and Carol Sack
Tokyo, Japan



Upcoming Events

Every Sunday:

The Well, Sunday School: 9:00 am
Coffee & Fellowship, 9:45 am
Morning Worship, 10:15 am

Week days: (except as noted)

Crossroad Preschool 10:00 am—12:30 pm.

Wednesdays

Bible Study, 10:00 am, Augustana Apartments

Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm



Jan. 1: New Year's Day.

Jan. 2: Preschool resumes

Jan. 4 & 18: Mom's Morning Out, 10:00 am, Fireside Room

Jan. 8: Service of Word and Music, Nate Lundgren preaching.

Jan. 10: WELCA Circles:

Candace Circle hosted by Beverly Sutherland, 7:00 pm, Augustana apartments, 1510 Party Room.

Ruth Circle hosted by Maila Ellefson, 7:00 pm at her home.

Jan. 12: Fireside Room in use by Lutheran Braille Evangelism Board.

Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no preschool.

Jan. 17: Council meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan. 21: Fare For All, 8:00 am set-up, 9:00 distribution.

January Birthdays

Jan. 4 Matthew Lefebvre
Jan. 5 Kathy Johnson
Jan. 5 Paul Williams
Jan. 8 Tim Linton
Jan. 8 Carolyn Silflow
Jan. 18 Rowland Sutherland
Jan. 20 Robert Karlson
Jan. 21 Anne Karlson
Jan. 26 Pam McGuire
Jan. 27 Gladys Carlson
Jan. 29 Barbara Johnson-Nye

Church Council Notes

Summary of November 19-20 congregational meeting

November 19:

Members met for a detailed presentation of the proposal from Hope Community Church. Questions were answered and detailed discussion took place.

Members were asked to consider their stewardship commitment for 2012.

Discussion was begun regarding the stewardship of the materials in the building.

Pastor Michelene announced her resignation.

November 20:

Three items were presented. Results are as follows:

1. Vote to accept proposal for Hope Community Church to purchase

property passed with a vote of 41 to 2.

2. Members were asked whether or not they will commit to supporting Augustana through April, 2012. Yes votes totaled 39; 2 people said no.

3. Members were asked whether or not they would commit to supporting the move to CES. 27 said yes; 14 said no.

Editor's Note: Since the November 20 meeting, a date of April 27, 2012 has been set for finalizing the sale of the building, with the last worship service at Augustana being April 29.

Council Members

J. Paul Carlson, President
Bob Day, Vice President
Donna Bird, Treasurer
Jon Ellefson, Secretary
Lorelli Brown
Pete Lefebvre
Tim Linton
Greg Miller
Rev. Mark Peterson
Rev. Michelene Verlautz
Roxanne Wong

Augustana Lutheran Church

704 11th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Phone: 612.332.8595
Fax: 612.332.8921
Web: www.augustanampls.org
E-mail: info@augustanampls.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pastor's Paragraph

(Continued from page 1)

Gospel, to administer the Sacraments and to have the opportunity to listen to your joys and challenges. I am blessed and grateful for this time together. Finally, farewell my brothers and sisters in Christ.

WELCA Advent Tea, continued

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and sacred and included a good variety of soloists and small groups as well. Cheryl, the director, and Monica, the pianist, contributed with their remarks and good humor. It was a very entertaining event.

The program concluded with Pastor Michelene Verlautz giving the Benediction.

Two offering baskets were available at the door: one for the Nigerian Women's Fellowship and the other for the WELCA general offering.

