

# New & Exciting Opportunities at Augustana

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Start your day off right! This group meets once per month for an inspirational hour with Pastor Aune discussing how to incorporate faith into your hectic work life. Join us when you can.

*First Wednesday of the month*

*6:30 to 7:30 am*

*Led by Pastor Aune*

NEW

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This study will offer a variety of Bible topics and presenters.

*Sunday mornings*

*9:45 to 10:45 am*

*Jerusalem Room*

**January 4 - 18**

*Follow the Leader;* a study of the book of Nehemiah

Led by Don Marsh

**January 25 - February 8**

More Bad Girls of the Bible

Led by Sue Gravelle

NEW

## PARENTING SERIES

This series focuses on anyone that influences a young person's life--a parent, grandparent, teacher, Godparent, etc.

**Wednesday, January 14, 2009**

6:15 to 7:45 pm, Sanctuary

Parenting on Purpose: Resolutions to Last a Lifetime.

Presented by Ada Alden, parenting expert and author.

**Thursday, February 12, 2009**

6:30 to 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

The Challenges in Kids' Lives: Helping Young Males and Females Thrive in a Stressful World. Presented by Dr. Michael Obsatz.

## SUNDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

January 18 - Three Cups of Tea

February 22 - Memoirs of Pontius Pilot

March 29 - Water for Elephants

April 26 - Snowflower and the Secret Fan

*Time 9:45 am*

*Luther Room*

*Led by a variety of people*

NEW

## CHICK TALK

This weekly women's group discusses real world issues facing modern women and how our faith plays a role. Topics may include: Adventurous Prayer, Loving a Life of Balance and Living above Worry and Stress. This is a come when you can event; sign up is not required.

*Monday evenings*

*Beginning January 19, 2009*

*7:00 to 8:00 pm*

*Led by Pastor Megan*

*Jerusalem Room*

NEW

## RETREATS

**A Holistic Approach to Wellness**

*Thursday, January 29*

*7:00 to 8:30 pm*

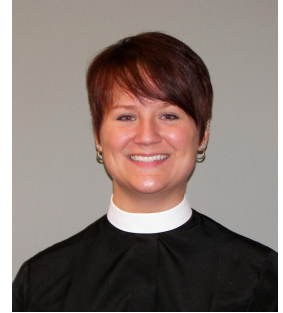
*Presented by Dr. Karen Lawson, M.D.*

**Spirit of Knitting Retreat**

*Saturday, February 21, 2009*

*8:30 am to 1:00 pm*

*Cost: \$5.00 (includes brunch)*



Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ó Isaiah 1:17-18

In this time after Christmas, we find ourselves surrounded by gracious reminders of the blessings of the year. There's food in our bellies, gifts from friends and family given in love, letters and cards from loved ones all over, and an abundance of decorations to envelope us in beauty and light. In fact, the red and white we often see this time of year is often attributed to this passage from Isaiah, where we are reminded that the coming of the Christ child brings us the promise of our scarlet sins becoming white as wool.

However, the verse just previous to it must be just as important to us in this season. Not only are we blessed to have been given so much, but we are also called and sent to be a blessing to others. Especially in these dark, cold days of winter, there are so many people in great need of a reminder of God's work in this world. We spread God's message of love and forgiveness when we reach out to others, no matter who or where they are, and share anything we can out of compassion.

### Confirmation Students Helping

The Confirmation students were recently in a grade level challenge - Which grade would bring the most items for a service project that was helping kids half the world away?

- 7th graders brought pens and pencils by the boxful
- 8th graders brought lots of warm gloves and mittens
- 9th graders brought many fun stuffed animals and beanie babies

On Wednesday December 10, the girls in Terry Merten's small group and in Sara Kilmer and Karyn Petersen's small groups assembled 55 'packs' of a stuffed animal & a pair of gloves or mittens stuffed full of pens/pencils. These are on their way to shipped to Camp Eggers in Kabul Afghanistan where they will be distributed to local school children through the armed services VCR Program (Volunteer Community Relations).

Congratulations to the 7th graders for contributing the most and winning the challenge! All 7th graders who participated will earn an extra service point for the win. Everyone who participated earned one service point for their efforts.

This Christmas season, our confirmation youth received a challenge from Confirmation Small Group Leader, Karyn Petersen to help share God's love to children in Afghanistan. Each grade provided something ó a pair of gloves, pens and pencils, or a stuffed animal ó to get packaged together for our service men and women to hand out to kids in great need. Sure, there was a promise of always-needed service credits for confirmation; however, the biggest draw seemed to be the promise of photos of these young people half a world away receiving their small-but-heartfelt gifts.

With this very small gesture, someone's life will be changed. Without once mentioning the name of Christ, his good news of graciousness and service will be lived out. Young people on opposite sides of the world will be united by a call to love and a promise that in God's love, we are all worthy of great and wonderful gifts.

This Christmas season, when you find yourself surrounded by beautiful red and white, may it remind you of the forgiveness we are each given in the name of Jesus, the tiny baby born for us all. May it inspire you to service and love for your neighbors, whether they are next door or a world away. And as always, may you be surrounded in the love and warmth of God's unending grace.

Soli deo Gloria,

*Pastor M*

with Holy Communion

**9:45 am Traditional Worship**

**11:00 am Celebration Worship**  
with Holy Communion  
Celebration Band

**Sunday, January 4 ~ 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

**8:30 am Traditional Worship**  
with Holy Communion  
Senior Choir

**9:45 am Traditional Worship**  
with Holy Communion  
Senior Choir

**11:00 am Celebration Worship**  
with Holy Communion  
Celebration Band

Nursery is available for children three years of age and younger during all services.

Sign Language interpreting is offered at the 8:30 am service

**LOWER LEVEL HAPPENINGS**

9:20 a.m. Kidsø Kingdom Opening

9:45 a.m. Kidsø Kingdom

9:45 a.m. Youth Forum

**Worship Attendance**

December 14		December 21	
8:30 am	274	8:30 am	456
9:45 am	487	9:45 am	carols
11:00 am	<u>174</u>	11:00 am	<u>559</u>
Total	935	Total	1129

Celebrations & Prayers

Please notify the Augustana office if you or anyone you know has a prayer need, or when you or a loved one is hospitalized, has a baby, or a death occurs in the family.

**BIRTHS**

- Claire Olivia Nigon, daughter of Adam and Beth Nigon, was born on September 16.
- Paige Julia Haapala, daughter of Jan and Valerie Haapala, was born on November 14.
- Sarah Catherine Cordes, daughter of Dick Cordes and Tricia Lawrence, born on December 18.

**BAPTISMS**

- Arthur Edward Lammers, Jr., son of Jean Doree and Art Lammers. Sponsors are Nicole Nepstad and Raymond Lammers.
- Jordan Raine Black, daughter of Karen Black. Sponsors are Pam & Jon Straus.

**WEDDINGS**

- Alicia Murr and David Hill were united in Holy Matrimony at Augustana on December 13.
- David Moody and Corrine Gray were united in Holy Matrimony at Augustana on December 26.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO**

- Al Maimer and family on the death of his mother, Molly.
- Angie Furman and family on the death of her grandfather, Paul Sellman.

THANK YOU to Pastors Mark and Megan and Parish Nurse Mary for their visits during my recent hospitalization. Thanks also to the Caring Casserole Ministry for the delicious meals you have provided. And to everyone who has sent a card, called, or said a prayer for us, and sincere Thank You! We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring Christian family. *Pat and Steve Riebau*

**STEWARDSHIP 2009 UPDATE**

	2009	2008
Number of returned pledge cards	496	511
Total pledged amount	\$1,182,737	\$1,217,299

Thank you to everyone who turned in their faith commitment card. 2009 results reflect a decrease of approximately 3% in both number of pledges and pledged amount.

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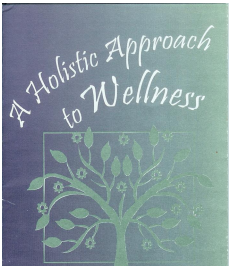
## Yogadevotion Winter Session

Tuesdays 6:30 pm, beginning January 13 (ten weeks)  
Cost: \$65.00

Take care of yourself in the New Year. This is a great class to increase flexibility and strength plus lower your stress level. Please register at the Information Center (sign up sheet is in the Health Ministry Book.) For more information visit [www.yogadevotion.com](http://www.yogadevotion.com). Nursery available upon request.

## A Holistic Approach to Wellness

Workshop on January 29, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.



Mark your January calendar for an opportunity to do something good for yourself and take charge of your health and well-being.

Dr. Karen Lawson, M.D., Assistant Professor in Family Medicine at the University of MN will present:

### A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WELLNESS

Take charge of your health and well-being and learn how to adopt a wellness-oriented lifestyle while enjoying an evening of learning, laughter and experiences. Come away renewed and charged to enrich your overall health and well-being.

## Augustana Blood Drive

February 17, 1:00 to 7:00 pm

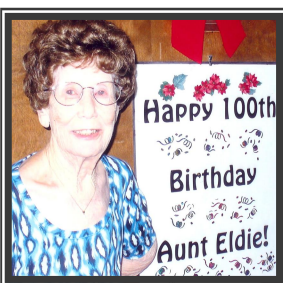
Stop by the info desk to sign up, or sign up online at [www.givebloodgivelife.org](http://www.givebloodgivelife.org). Sponsor Code 5645.



## Why should I donate blood?

Almost **97%** of the population will need a unit of blood in their lifetime, but **only 5%** actually give blood. Giving one pint of blood can help save up to **3 lives!**

## Happy 100th Birthday!



Eldie May celebrated her 100th birthday on December 22. She said the secret to her long life is: surrounding yourself with wonderful people, not taking yourself too seriously . . . and getting into a little trouble now and then!

## Lunching, Learning & Living

Wednesday, January 21, 11:30 am

ōBirds in Minnesotaö presented by Jerry Bahls, President of the Minnesota Chapter of Audubon Society.

## Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Update

Pertussis continues to be identified in our community.

What should I know?

- It is a persistent cough illness
- Anyone any age can get it
- The first symptoms are similar to a cold. After a week or two, the cough worsens and begins to occur in sudden, uncontrollable bursts. Children may make high-pitch whooping sounds when gasping for air. Everyone will not have the classic whooping type cough.
- Pertussis bacteria are spread through droplets produced during coughing or sneezing. The droplets do not travel very far through the air and usually only infect persons nearby.
- People with pertussis can spread it to others in the first 3 weeks of coughing if not treated with antibiotics. After a person with pertussis has taken antibiotics for 5 days, he/she can no longer spread the disease.
- If anyone in your family has a cough for 7-10 days or has been exposed to pertussis they should see their health care provider.
- Prevention: Adults and children 10 years of age and older should check to see that they have had the new Tdap vaccine booster that includes a tetanus, pertussis and diphtheria. (The new vaccine that includes pertussis has been used since 2005). Infants and children under 6 years of age should have had the series of DTaP vaccine. Infants do not have full protection until they are fully vaccinated at 12-15 monthsí this makes it very important that people that are around infants have their immunizations up to date.
- We can all help to prevent the spread of pertussis in our community: Wash your hands often, cover your cough and stay home when you are ill.

Additional information available at Information Center of visit [www.dakotacounty.us/publichealth](http://www.dakotacounty.us/publichealth).

## Children's Christmas Program



On December 14, over 150 children participated in the Kidsø Kingdom Christmas Program. They sang songs and traditional carols about the meaning of the Advent candles. Thank you to Kristine Deyo and Matt Howard for accompanying the children and to Kathy Andrews, Laurie Armon, Kim Zemple and Beth Judnick for directing our children in song.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Family Movie Night

Friday, January 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

We will be showing "Nims Island." Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

### B.A.S.I.C. Snow Tubing at Green Acres

Sunday, January 18, Noon to 2:00 pm

Cost is \$10 per person

We will leave church at 11:30 am and return at 2:30 pm. Church transportation will be provided to the first 18 kids signed up. If we get more than 18 kids we will need parents to help drive. Anyone tubing must have a signed waiver to Cathy before we leave. Waiver and sign-up are available at the Info Center in the Children's Ministry binder. Please note for safety reasons, scarves are not allowed on the tubing hill. Concessions are available at Green Acres

### Wednesday Evening Activities are Back

Starting Wednesday, January 7, at 5:40 pm

There will be games and crafts in Creation Station for all children age 4 yrs and up. Children in choir will be dismissed at 6:12 pm to head to the choir rooms. Please do not send your children downstairs before 5:40 pm as there will be no supervision before that.

### Alternative Youth Forum

Sundays January 11, 18, 25, & February 1

6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Nursery

Once again Cathy Hendrikson will be offering an alternative youth forum on Sunday evening for those youth who help with Kids' Kingdom or others who are not able to make it to Sunday morning youth forum.

These alternative forums will be held again in March & April.

### Young Adult Holiday Dinner

December 26 at 6:00 pm, Dinner is free

For young adults out of college or in the 22-30 age range

We seek to give this age group new opportunities to get together. So, whether you are home for the holidays or living locally you are welcome to attend this first annual dinner designed just for your age group. Contact Don Marsh to register.

### College Age Holiday Dinner

December 30, meet at the church at 6:00 pm, Dinner free

For those who are in college or of college age

This annual gathering has been a highlight of our holiday season for several years. Gather with old friends from high school days. It is always fun and it is free!

### Vertical Endeavors indoor rock climbing

January 11, 2009, Senior High youth, meet at noon

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

We will meet for lunch then travel as a group to VE. Our climbing session is from 1:15 to 3:30. Friends are ALWAYS welcome at Augustana youth events. Contact Don Marsh to register or complete an Events and Activities Registration Form found in the Youth and Family binder at the Information Center. Checks payable to Augustana.

### Confirmation and Coffee Club resume January 7!

### Senior High Snow Trip

January 23 to 25, lodging at Crosswoods Camp  
Skiing at Indian Head and Spirit Mountain

Cost: \$125

### Confirmation-aged Snow Trip is Coming

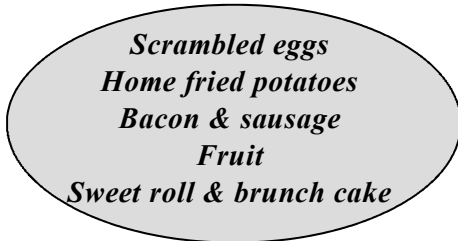
Save the dates, February 14-15

Cost: \$95

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January 6, Noon, Cost \$8.00 payable at the luncheon

Make this New Year your healthiest! Breakfast is the healthiest meal of the day. Join us for a menu of:



Sign up in Augsburgana Information Center or call the church office no later than Sunday, January 4.

### Men's Monthly Breakfast

Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 am

Join Pastor Mark Aune for a continental breakfast and a Bible based devotional on incorporating faith in your life. Fresh bagels, yogurt, rolls and other breakfast foods will be on hand to break your fast. It is not necessary to sign up for this event.



### Afternoon Knitting/Craft Small Group

Thursday, January 8 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm, Library

Bring your knitting or craft project and enjoy the company of other crafters.

### Women's Ministry

Mondays, 10:00 to 11:30 am

January 12 Start the New Year by following Lizzy lead as she guides us through the lives of several more *Bad Girls of the Bible*.

January 19 The leadership team from Augsburgana Befriender Ministry will discuss the revitalized Befriender Ministry and answer questions about this ministry.

January 26 The # 1 *New York Times* Bestseller **THE SHACK** by Wm. Paul Young, creatively tackles numerous faith related questions like: What is God? What does God want from us? The proposed answers are nontraditional, challenging and insightful. It is not necessary to have read the book, however after our conversations you will want to!

### Koinonia Event—New fellowship group for baby boomers

Saturday, January 24

Meet for dinner at Angelo's at 5:00 pm

Angelo's is located at 1203 Southview Blvd., South St Paul.

Play begins at 7:00 pm at SSP High School

Join us for dinner at Angelo's in South St. Paul, followed by a performance of the Sound of Music at the South St. Paul High School. The cost of dinner will be on your own. We have pre-ordered 30 tickets for the play. Ticket prices are \$6 for seniors and \$8 for adults. Sign up and purchase the play tickets at the Information Center by January 14. After January 14, people can purchase tickets on their own through the school.

### 2009 Trip to Guatemala

You are invited to visit our sister church in Guatemala in July-August, 2009. The dates of the trip are July 30 to August 9. Cost is \$1500, which includes airfare, ground transportation, lodging, food, and entrance fees. Our trips to Guatemala follow the accompaniment model, where we walk alongside our brothers and sisters. We listen, we learn, we sing, we play, we worship, we share meals. We don't necessarily do work projects, though such opportunities do come up at times. It is an opportunity to live with families in their very humble homes and to receive their gracious hospitality. It is an opportunity to learn about the Mayan culture. It is an opportunity to lead a Bible School for the children. It is an opportunity to hear stories of survival during the recent civil war. It is an opportunity to worship and strengthen your own faith as you witness the faith of others. It is an opportunity! For more information, contact Janet Metcalfe at 651-450-1717.



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NO Kids' Kingdom  
NO Youth Forum

**Monday, December 29**

Youth Return from Crosswoods

**Tuesday, December 30**

6:00 pm College Age Dinner

**Wednesday, December 31**

**Thursday, January 1**

**Happy New Year!**  
Office Closed All Day ~



**Friday, January 2**

Office **Open** until 12:00 noon today

**Saturday, January 3**

**Christmas**

**Sunday, January 4 ~ 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

NO Kids' Kingdom  
NO Youth Forum

**Monday, January 5**

**Tuesday, January 6**

10:00 am Memory Loss Support/Jerusalem Room  
10:00 am the Gathering/Room 5E  
12:00 pm Senior Luncheon/Fellowship Hall  
7:00 pm the TREK/Youth Center  
4:30 pm Loaves and Fishes

**Wednesday, January 7**

6:30 am Men's Breakfast/Fellowship Hall  
5:15 pm Congregational Dinner  
5:45-7:15 Resource Room Open  
5:50 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm Coffee Club  
6:15 pm Cherub/Chorister Choirs  
7:00 pm Agape Choir/Rejoice! Ringers  
8:00 pm Senior Choir/Alleluia Bells

**Thursday, January 8**

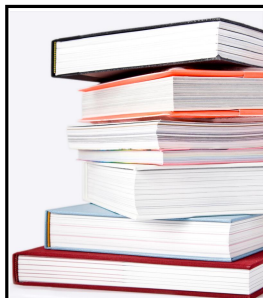
1:00 pm Knitting Ministry/Library  
7:00 pm Knitting Ministry/Black Sheep Café

**Friday, January 9**

6:30 pm Movie Night/Commons

**Saturday, January 10**

9:00 am Wedding Seminar



**Come in**

and check us out!

The Augustana Library  
will reopen  
Sunday, January 10, 2009

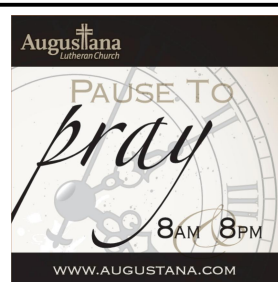
We hope to see both familiar and new  
faces come through our doors.

Come in and browse;  
check out a CD, Book or DVD.



Where did Handel get the words to the  
Messiah?

FIND THE ANSWER IN: ISAIAH 9:6



Dear God,  
How can I express my gratitude for the gift of your only begotten Son? Please open my heart and soul anew as I receive this gift once again. I join with the shepherds and angels in glorifying and praising God for all I have seen and heard. And I open my heart, I raise my song, and I give thanks to the giver as I welcome the gift. In His name I pray. Amen.

Whether you're  
a parent,  
grandparent,  
aunt, uncle,  
Godparent  
teacher or coach,  
this event is for  
YOU!

## PARENTING ON PURPOSE:

New Years Resolutions  
to Last a Lifetime

*Presented by*

**ADA ALDEN**

Wednesday, January 14, 2009  
6:15 to 7:45 pm

Augustana Lutheran Church

Children are like a grandfather clock. Each day they need attention to keep them running well. Each day they need to be reassured - rewound. Children need attentive adults to be present on a regular and daily basis. Come and learn what makes your child "tick" and discover parenting skills that will last a lifetime.

Dr. Ada Alden is the author of *Parenting on Purpose: Red Yellow Green Framework for Respectful Discipline*.

