



The Augustanan

September 2008



John Kidd
Senior Pastor

Dear Augustanans,

The mentors who have most shaped me over the years planted specific sets of questions in my mind to which I return again and again. I credit Frank Wendt when for these four: Where have we been? Where are we going? What do we have to do to get there? Whose help do we need? While they are characterized as leadership questions, I also apply them in personal terms.

September has tackled Augustana with a busy to do list of good things. The choir, Lydians, Sunday School, Adult Forum, Young Adults, etc. are all gearing up. A workshop on the ELCA draft statement on sexuality (9/7), celebrating Augustana and the installation of yours truly as you pastor on Holy Cross Sunday (9/14), and the baptism of Joshua Lee Lenhart-Ray (9/21) will give added dimensions to the first three Sundays of the month. For Augustana to do these well, your help is needed.

But amid it all, where is Augustana going? In July Congregational Council members took on a question – If you could state Augustana’s mission on a bumper sticker, what would it say? Our parish leaders responded: “Augustana - Crossroads in the City”; “Engaging People, Community, Yourself”; “Serving All God’s Children”; “Concern-Love-Service – Faith”; “Where God Works Magic”.

They collectively describe a great destination, a church where people of all kinds and ages connect to one another, to those who need them, and to the Christ who embraces all Gods people. September offers opportunities to grow these relationships. But your relationships only grow when you invest yourself.

Approaching September, join me in borrowing the words of St. Richard of Chichester to pray: “Day by day, O dear Lord, three things I pray – To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day by day by day.”

Faithfully,

John
Pastor John S. Kidd



Celebrating Holy Cross Day

The People of
Augustana Lutheran Church
Invite you to join them in
the Installation of
The Reverend John S. Kidd
As their Pastor

The Reverend Conrad Braaten,
Dean of the District of Columbia Conference
will officiate at the rite of installation.

The Rt. Reverend Richard Graham,
Bishop of The Metropolitan Washington D.C.
Synod of the ELCA
will preach.

Sunday, September 14, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

Special Music at 3:30 p.m.
Augustana Lutheran Church
2100 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, D.C.

Reception to follow the service

Clergy, Associates in Ministry
Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers
are invited to vest and process.

The color of the day is red!

Adult Forum Returns in September

Adult Forum kicks off its fall term on September 7 with a viewing of the video documentary, “Taize: That Little Springtime.” Produced by Martin Doblmeier (creator of the recent “Bonhoeffer” theatrical film), the video examines the history and work of the Taize community of France, an ecumenical Christian religious order founded in the aftermath of World War II. Taize has become a popular retreat destination for Christians from around the world and has become a significant influence on contemporary spirituality and concepts of Christian community. Taize is probably best known for its contribution to modern sacred music: a simple, repetitive form of multilingual chant.

The September 14 Adult Forum will begin a new lectionary-based Bible study series entitled, “Seasons of the Spirit.” Each week, participants will read and discuss the Sunday liturgical readings and consider the readings in light of our life as a Christian community and our individual faith journeys. A special feature of this series is an arts component that allows participants to expand their understanding of the scriptural message through visual arts and music.

Adult Forum meets in the library at 9:15 am. Each session begins with a short “get acquainted” social time over coffee and donuts. Everyone in the Augustana community is invited to participate.

Interested in Adult Christian Education at Augustana?

The success of two book discussion groups that met during the spring and summer months has prompted a call for more adult education offerings at Augustana. A meeting is being planned for September 21 to discuss options for adult study that would supplement the regular Adult Forum series, but meet at times more conducive to some participants’ schedules. While book groups have proven to be popular in our congregation, we will be open to all suggestions about the focus and format for any potential adult study group. If you have ideas or comments, or simply wish to know more about adult education at Augustana, please consider joining us on September 21.

Check the announcements in the weekly bulletin for time and location.

Celebrating Autumn with Children

During the fall many children will enter a new stage of maturity. Some start school; others move to a more challenging grade. In August or September, you may wish to include a blessing of teachers and students (don’t forget school administrators) and blessing of Sunday school teachers and Sunday school students. Recognizing students in this way honors one of the most important events in young people’s lives each year.

For many churches, Sunday school resumes at this time of year. This might be a good time to talk about what it means to be in community and how we deal with others in the community. The gospel readings during September illustrate ways we get along with one another. You could do a children’s sermon series that teaches about living together in community by using the gospels: How should I deal with arguments with other people? (Sept. 7) How often must I forgive? (Sept. 14, unless you’re celebrating Holy Cross); How should I act if someone else gets the same without doing as much? (Sept. 21); Why should I do what I say I will do? (Sept. 28).

The changing of seasons in autumn offers an opportunity to talk about the visible changes in nature. For many of us, the leaves turn colors and drop from the trees. The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia (originally published in 1982) tells the story of a leaf who learns his purpose and then faces the reality of death (and rebirth). It is not explicitly religious, but does point to a greater purpose and life beyond death. Or families could make a huge leaf collage during coffee hour that would be posted in the sanctuary or narthex for a few weeks.

Ideas for Autumn

- Reestablish a fall worship routine and seek new ways to engage children in worship. For example, help kids learn how to listen to a sermon by playing this hand-squeeze game: whenever you hear “Jesus” or “God” (or some word from that day’s celebration: Ascension, forgiveness, Alleluia) during the sermon, you squeeze the hand of the adult you are sitting with. Many kids get a kick out of seeing who can squeeze first.
- This year Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14) falls on a Sunday. Have the children draw many styles of crosses (Coptic, Jerusalem, Latin, Tau, Greek, Chi Rho, St. Peter’s). Perhaps you could set up three tables in the gathering space—each with a different cross-making activity (tracing or connect the dots, play dough, Tinker toys®, or Lego®). Challenge the children to find all the crosses they can in the worship space. Or ask children to form a cross shape with their body parts (fingers, hands, arms, feet, legs).

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- The church commemorates St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. Some churches have a blessing of animals service near that date—for example on Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon. This could be publicized at the local veterinarian's office, dog grooming service, or feed store and throughout the neighborhood. Both children and adults generally enjoy such a service. If you're worried about having animals in your worship space, hold the service out in the church yard or a nearby park. See the Blessing of the Animals service in the seasonal rites section, p. 259.
- For the Oct. 13 Canadian Thanksgiving, see November's Thanksgiving idea suggestions.
- On Reformation Sunday (Oct. 26), give out a coloring page or a pre-colored sample of the Luther Rose (Augsburg Fortress sells note cards with this image). View the image and its explanation at www.elca.org/questions/Results.asp?recid=2 (What is a Luther Rose?). This drawing was Luther's "summary of theology." The meanings may be too abstract for many children, but it is a lovely picture with simple colors. The Luther rose is a black cross in a red heart, in the middle of a white rose surrounded by a sky-blue field, with a golden ring around the outside of the whole image.

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School Blessings

Blessings for Teachers and Students

For the marvels of your creation,
we praise you, O God.

For the opportunity to explore and study,

we praise you, O God.

For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

we praise you, O God.

Teach us your ways and guide us in your path,
for you are the creator of all that is seen and unseen.

Amen.

OR

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year, that both students and teachers will be blessed in their academic endeavors.

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.

Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.



Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING OF TEACHERS

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education:

give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Stewardship

Growing in Generosity, Growing in Faith

How do we become generous people? That is the question our Stewardship Team hopes we will all ask ourselves during our upcoming autumn stewardship campaign. Our focus for this year's campaign will be on growing in proportionate giving. Research has shown that middle class families in the U.S. on average devote about 1.7% of their income to charitable giving, far from the 10% that we have so often been asked to aim for and that is not only expected, but required for membership in some "high expectation" faith groups such as Mormons and Pentecostals.

Our Stewardship Team will not require each of us to contribute 10% of our income to Augustana's Mission Plan, or even propose that we devote a total of 10% of our income to all the charities we support, although we certainly feel that is a goal to strive for. But we will ask each of us to figure out what proportion of our income we currently devote to Augustana and other charitable causes, and in the stewardship materials we distribute we will provide a tool - a sort of slide rule - to help us in our calculations. Then we will ask each of us to consider increasing the percentage of our income we currently give to Augustana and other charitable activities by whatever percentage we consider doable.

The concept of proportionate giving is key to efforts to become generous people. It's OK to start by donating a small percentage of our income to charitable causes, just as long as we view that as a beginning and commit ourselves to try to increase the percentage annually. That is the idea



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of proportionate giving. Our Stewardship Team believes that as we grow in generosity, we grow in faith and grow in character as human beings, by re-directing our attention and resources from our own needs to strengthening our community of faith and reaching out to help those in need in our local community and the world.

Autumn Stewardship Plans

An important addition to your Augustana calendar for the fall is November 9, the date for our annual stewardship luncheon. At the luncheon team leaders will tell you what we have accomplished in the past year with our dollars, our time, and our talents. You will also receive a booklet detailing more fully Augustana's accomplishments last year and sharing plans and dreams for the future. We hope this information will inspire you as you fill out your pledge cards for our 2009 Mission Plan and Accessibility Fund and as you indicate on a time and talent form how you will help Augustana realize its plans and dreams in 2009. Pledge cards and time & talent forms will be received at the offering on November 23, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Carol Capps for the Stewardship Team

Evangelism



A GOOD NEWS CHURCH: THOUGHTS ON EVANGELISM

*“The Ministry of Welcoming,” part B by
Jim Heinemeier*

Bill Riggs shared this piece and it is so right-on, I want to pass it on to all of you.

“This is it: a visitor walks into the church building. The visitor has taken the first step – a giant step. The visitor has overcome every barrier that has kept her away: fear, intimidation, social inertia, weekend distractions, pre-conceived notions, and a million other reasons that have kept her away until now.

“Now, this moment and this moment only, you have the chance to make a first impression that will forever color this visitor's opinion of your church.

“A visitor's first 30 seconds in your church building is a time when you must get it right.”

Thanks, Bill!

The question is how to transform that visitor into a guest and, we hope, a part of our church fellowship. And the answer? Each of us is the answer. Not the pastor, not the ushers, not the greeters – or any others whose job it is to be friendly. It is up to each member of Augustana. We urgently need to put off for the moment meeting and greeting our friends before, during, and after the liturgy and instead make it a point to reach out to the many people who visit us at Augustana each month.

Remember. Each of us is the answer!!!

Food for Thought!

Green Food for Thought

Jim Heinemeier, for the Green Team

The Church Council has given us the “green” light (sorry – couldn't restrain myself) to do a G-Blast to the Augustana membership each week or so. What we have in mind is forwarding some green “food for thought” to the church office each week and having the staff send it on to the membership electronically via what I understand is called a “blast” – actually, I don't understand how it works. I think it means the material is sent out to everyone of the church's e-list; or something like that. Here's an example of what we will be sending out, this one from the Sierra Club's, “The Green Life.”

“Roughly 60 million Americans celebrate summertime by flipping burgers over a charcoal-fueled flame. (How many do you suppose don't ‘world's greatest chef’ aprons?) While a single barbecue won't destroy the planet, millions of 'em do have an impact. With a few minor adjustments to this summer ritual, grilling can go green.

“Easy Green: Opt for an electric or a propane grill, because charcoal emits more carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and soot. If you can't sacrifice the traditional smoky taste, hybrid grills rely primarily on electric power, while a small amount of charcoal or wood imparts flavor.”

“Uber Green: Hard-core green grillers, follow Ed Begley Jr.'s advice and embrace the solar oven. If you're feeling really industrious, try the Daily Green's instructions and make your own solar stove.”

Let us know what you think. We don't want to clutter up your life. On the other hand, we do want to keep green concerns at the forefront of our thoughts.



Note This:

An Invitation:

- Who?** You
What? Augustana Choir
When? 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 4th
Where? Choir Room (in the Undercroft)
What do I bring?
- A love of music-making and the ability to sing on pitch
 - A commitment to regular attendance at rehearsals and services

A Champagne & Chocolate Reception follows the first rehearsal.

For more information contact Dr. Mitts:
202-425-4586 or jtmitts@mac.com

**Betsy Miller in Recital
4:00 p.m. September 21**

Elizabeth Fulford Miller will be presented in recital at Augustana Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m. For the first half she will be joined by soprano Katherine Osborne (who sang here on Easter) for a selection of arias and duets from the works of J. S. Bach, accompanied by violin, oboe, and cello. On the second half she will perform the Five Mystical Songs of Ralph Vaughan Williams, accompanied by organist J. Thomas Mitts. Everyone is cordially invited to the recital and the reception that follows in the Social Hall. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Augustana music program.

Class of May

Meet our New Members, received on the Day of Pentecost 2008!

Amy Forester

Amy is from Reading PA and attended Penn State, where she earned a degree in marketing/political science. For the past five years she has lived in the DC area, making her home in the 16th and U Street neighborhood. She loves the metro area which, in her view, has everything a big city has, without the big city feel. She enjoys meeting people from all over and the fact that wherever she goes people want to talk politics. Amy works in governmental affairs for Liberty Mutual and for pleasure loves travel and photo-journalism.

A life-long Lutheran, she was looking for a church in Washington, and when she moved to this neighbor - voila! - around the corner was Augustana, Here she thrives on Augustana's energy, choir, diversity, and proximity. Amy likes to run and has done ten marathons! She is a fan of NASCAR and Kasey Kahne and Junior. She has a boyfriend named Cliff.

Diane Schilke

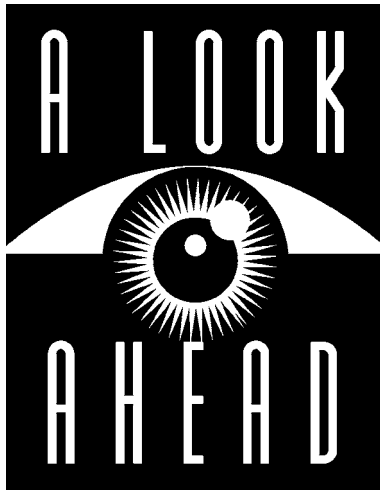
Originally a Brooklyn resident, Diane is the daughter of a Lutheran pastor and mission developer who helped found the amazing jazz-mass scene at St Peter's Church in Manhattan. She has spent the bulk of her life in New York, Connecticut, and, for the past forty years, in the same 21st and N Street neighborhood of Washington. She loves the city scene, and as a single woman, the city fits her style. For forty years Diane was a legal secretary, working in general law and intellectual property.

She attended Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, majoring in music education. (Try doing that for 8th graders, she suggests.) For a while she was active at St. Stephens Catholic parish here in the District. She was looking for a noon-time Good Friday observance and she was introduced to Augustana. Diane finds the liturgy at Augustana is close to her heart; she loves the formality and dignity of its services. She was instrumental in getting the hymnal-ribbon program under way in this congregation. In her free time she enjoys the harpsichord, knitting and crocheting, serving as a eucharistic minister (bringing the consecrated sacrament to people who can't attend the liturgy), working with Alzheimer's patients and with residents of nursing homes. She feels real passion about the death penalty, guns, global warming, and the church. She wants to "give back!"

Welcome, Amy and Diane!

NOTE – Please check the newsletter from several months ago for pictures of Amy and Diane, together with Interim Pastor Norm Theiss.

Social Ministries Calendar



Social Ministries: What's on the Calendar?

September 6 – Martha's Table: Augustana feeds DC's hungry people, 4:30 – 6:30pm. Can you volunteer?

September 7 – Fair Trade First Sunday: Check out the Social Ministries table at our hospitality time. Coffee and chocolate brought to us by Lutheran World Federation.

September 8 – "Spanish for Christian Ministry" class starts at St. Paul's Church on K Street, Mondays 6:30 to 8:30pm, publicized by Metro DC Synod. Contact David Allen White at dawh1@msn.com for more information.

September 14 – A World Food Crisis Offering will be received at the Installation Service of our new Pastor, the Rev. John Kidd.

September 21 – Back to School Days for our two adopted Palestinian children, a program of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. Send them a card at hospitality time.

September 28 – Food for Fourth Sunday: Bring non-perishable foods and sundries for the Augustana-Maria pantry as an offering.

October 4 – Martha's Table: Augustana feeds more of DC's hungry people, 4:30 – 6:30pm. Can you volunteer?

October 5 – Jubilee Anniversary – 50 Years of the Swedish Church of Washington DC located at Augustana
– **Fair Trade First Sunday:** Coffee and chocolate brought to us by Lutheran World Federation.

October 19 – Bread for the World Sunday and Mini-walk to Help the Homeless: We'll walk around the block right after service, then write a letter to our elected officials asking them to take action against hunger and homelessness.

October 26 – Food for Fourth Sunday: Bring non-perishable foods and sundries for the community pantry.

What else?

Date to be Announced: N Street Village/Luther Place Shelter, quarterly meal to serve the homeless who are transitioning to new lives at N Street Village's shelter

From the Installation Service through Thanksgiving: Let's feed 5,000! Jesus fed the hungry using a few fish and loaves of bread. We can feed the hungry too, through our concerted efforts with ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, our food collections for the Augustana-Maria pantry, Martha's Table and more. **During this period, we are going to keep tally and really strive to feed at least 5,000 hungry people in our world.** Can you meet the challenge?

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AUGUST

- 5 Joseph Bass, William Riggs
- 6 Michael O'Brien
- 8 Sarah Bucci
- 9 Fred Howell
- 13 Catharine Cashner
- 15 LaTanya Gist
- 17 George Krafthofer
- 18 Sarita Chapman, David Juilfs
- 23 Michael Coombe

SEPTEMBER

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

2008 Council & Chairs

2008 Congregational Council

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Finance - Greg Roemer	202/249-9886	greg.roemer@gmail.com

Parish Concerns

In our prayers, let us include the following:

Members: Josephine Allen; Mary Andoh; Louise Anderson; Celia Davenport; Herman Davis, Sr.; Dorothy Gladney; Craig Shireman, Don Werner



Friends and Family: Jack Baerwald (Baerwald); Connie Boorer (Hunter); Ruby Brooks (Anthony); Kevin & Regina Brown (Larisch); George Cahill (Pizza) the Cahill family (Fenton); Sean Castilla (Laughlin); (Teresa Cross (Knauff); Jerry Custer (Bowers); Mindy Davis (Isbell); Elvera Desmond (Juilfs); Beverly Anderson Fauser (Louise Anderson; Rachel H. Falls (Schilke); Patricia Franks (Knauff); Pat Frohman (Hunter); Betty Grady (Werner); Leona Harper (Knauff); Abigail Henderson (Schilke); Irma Holderbein (Heinemeier); Denise Kellam (Bucci); Sara Kepple (Richter); Jennifer Kileo (Hart); Kate and the Rev. Luther Knauff (Knauff); Rona Lenhof (Bonds); Ann Lockwood (Werner); Samantha Lopez (Kahler-Larson); Celeste Lotz (Knauff); Adelaide Lusambilli (Markle-Elder); Bill Lynch (Hunter); Jan McGurty (Larisch); Ken Merritt (Hunter); William Moon (Wassum); Bruno Muzzi (Markle-Elder); Chris Nelson (Burch-Nelson); Christopher Palermo (Williams); Grace Patterson (Burton); Josephine Pizza (Pizza); Carrie Reynolds (Knauff); (Vicar Lois Ryan (Kahler/Larson); The Rutter family (Bonds); The Sharp family (Hart); Robert Shelton (Arrington) Janet Spleen (Jaeger); Caleb Richter-Tate (Richter); Diana Tate (Richter); Nancy Telford (Richter); Marty Wagner (Hart); Cay and John Wiant (Larisch); Joleita Yurchak (Roth-Renne).

Names remain on the prayer list for four weeks and may be renewed by notifying the office.

In Christian Joy with Rebecca Berman and David McMahon on the birth of their daughter Veronica Elizabeth McMahon on Tuesday, July 1.

In Christian Joy with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Dumfries, VA on the purchase of its first permanent home.

In Christian Sympathy with Chuck Leath on the death of his sister Otelia Leath in North Carolina on June 22.

In Christian Sympathy with Sally Larisch and her family, on the death of Sally's father, Richard Larisch on August 1 in Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

In Christian Joy with Jim and Doris Lewis who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on August 11.

In Christian Joy with former members Mike Carson and Ron Steigerwalt who will be married on Sunday, August 10 at First Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA. If you would like to send them a card or note, please call the office for their address.

In Christian Sympathy with Bob and Alice Anderson the death of Bob's cousin Jeff Berry who died the weekend of August 10.

Thank You to Melanie Caesar, Judy Floy, and Patricia Richter for volunteering at Martha's Table over the Fourth of July weekend and Thank you to Joyce Byamungu, Melanie Caesar and Jacqueline Nader for volunteering at Martha's Table on August 2nd. Members of Augustana provide food to the homeless on the first Saturday of every month. If you can help on September 6 or October 4, please contact Amy Yergey at ayergey@yahoo.com or 301-370-3854.

Thank You to Mary Andoh, Carol Capps, Pearl Cox, Ruth Hunter, Betsy Knauff, Chuck Leath and Bruce Miller for assisting in the preparation and mailing of the June/July issue of the Augustanan.

Thank You to Ruth and Arne Sorenson for hosting the "Day at the Bay" on Friday, August 1 for the youth of Augustana and Santa Maria. Also thanks for Pastor Kidd, Sharon Kaya, Barbara Solt and the Sorenson family for providing transportation for those who attended.

Thank You to Salome Burton, Chuck Leath, Ingrid Margrave and Susan Pizza who had addressed all the invitations for Pastor Kidd's installation service on September 14.

Thank You to our regular office volunteers Salome Burton, Betsy Knauff, Ingrid Margrave and Bruce Miller for their weekly contributions of time and talent.

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Thanks to the gifts of individual members and the work of office volunteers; as of Sunday, August 17 colored ribbons cascade from the spines of about half of the sanctuary hymnals. Using them to mark hymns and sections of the liturgy, your participation will flow more easily with the service.

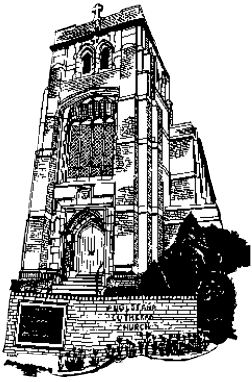
Herman Davis, Sr. has been released from the hospital and moved to an assisted living center for four to five weeks. Cards and notes can be sent to him as follows: Mr. Herman Davis, Sr., Golden Living Center of Hagerstown, and 750 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD 21740 --301/797-4040.

Earlier this summer we announced that Aaron Bonds had agreed to become Augustana's head usher. He is now actively recruiting new members for the ushers' corps. If you would like to be part of this vital Augustana ministry, please contact him at 202/248-8244 or at abonds@gwu.edu.

With Christian Joy for the Lenhart-Ray and McMahan families as they prepare for the baptisms of Joshua Lee Lenhart-Ray and Veronica Elizabeth McMahan this Fall.

Hospitality Hosts Needed – Augustana's Hospitality hour which is key to our being a family together is in desperate need of more and new volunteers. Serving as a hospitality host is relatively easy and something that everyone enjoys. If you can assist us in this meaningful ministry please contact Betsy Knauff at Kayessee57@aol.com or call the church office.

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The Augustanan

Surveying the Ministry
in Our Lives



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