



AUGUSTANA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

June 2018

335 Main St S • Hutchinson MN 55350 • 320.587.2093

Greetings and God's peace be with you! I was excited to attend the AD Annual Convention live this year! The on-line attendance is terrific, but it was great to see people and bump into folks I haven't seen in person in a while.



Thank you to all those who attended! I hope that you too enjoyed meeting new people and seeing old friends. We had people from as far away as Bair, NE, and Gardendale, TX. We also had several people attend with the online streaming option. This option decreases time and travel and is perfect for some churches. Thank you to our on-line pioneers: Terri Bomar (new District Council member). The participants from Life in Grace (Odessa, TX), Pastor Thomas Thorstad, (Sanborn, NY - new Associate Member), Pastor Timothy Balfanz (Peace, Nevis, MN - new Board of Theology and Ministry member), Pastor Drew Nelson (Conrad, MT, Christ Lutheran in Waco, TX), Pr. Daniel Tabor (Niagara Falls, NY), and Sharon Busch (Nevis, MN).

And thank you, Alex Peterson from Video Magic Productions for the technical know-how and diligence to both record and stream the event.

We had some changes in leadership. I can't say enough good things about the District



Council, and I'm sad to be losing Gaylen Lerohl, Jane Evers, Loren Brekke, and Emilie Wildey who have faithfully served on the council. Also, the Board of Theology and Ministry is changing, and I want to thank Pr. Steve Bliss,

Pr. Michael Hanson, Pr. Nicholas Hopman, Pr. AJ Kluver, Gaylen Lerohl

and

Pr. Janine Rew-Werling for their service on the BTM. This board mainly

oversees the "Theology" part of our "Theology, Church, Mission" mantra.

Of course, administrative assistant, Wendy Magruder, is the worker who gets everything lined up and put together so that the event runs smoothly and professionally. She's the bomb! And our Service Coordinator, Pr. Randy Freund, is the worker bee/idea guy/make it happen person. Thank you, Pr. Randy for the excellent job you're doing!

I hope that the Convention was a time for you to visit, worship, voice your praises and concerns, vote, and learn more about what's been happening in the district. I am thrilled to announce that we voted to disseminate about \$40,000 as seed money for various ministries. God is good, and I pray that He continues to work through this district.



In Christ,

Pastor Becky Hand, District Council Chair

"ARE THEY ALL LIKE THIS?"

By Pastor Randy Freund, Service Coordinator

In my view, the best question from the convention was one that came from a first-time attendee. He asked: "Are they all like this?" Of course, I answered in the affirmative.

Then, I asked what he meant by the question. His answer was telling. For him, it was so important to be a part of a group that "felt like home." It started with the worship service, with great hymns and solid preaching. It moved to

the challenging words and theological content of the speaker. He was thrilled to hear about the emphasis on mission and the fact that there would be new funding for mission. He heard the care for congregations in conflict. He

stopped to see vendors and hear their stories. He even liked the business meeting. All in all, it was a great introduction to the Augustana District. This gathering of broken, confessing

Lutherans was just what he was seeking.

This first-time convention goer summarized precisely the mantra on which we focus: Theology. Church. Mission. I too wish to add my thanks for the faithful witness of Augustana District friends and

fellow witnesses who are not ashamed of the gospel. When the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word come together in the empty vessels that we are, "they will all be like this!"

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SO IMPORTANT
TO BE A PART OF
A GROUP THAT
"FELT LIKE HOME"



Welcome to Newly Elected Members of the District Council and Board of Theology and Ministry!

NEW DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Teri Bomar – Hi, I’m Terri Bomar. I live in Odessa, Texas, and have been here for most of my life. I retired in 2011 from working in the “real world” from Pathologists Bio-medical Laboratories. I was the manager of their satellite lab in Odessa for more than 18 years. I now help my husband run our small trucking business from home. I also help take care of my elderly mother, who lives with us. I am one of the founding members of Life in Grace Lutheran Church and it is my home. I served on the board in the early years as financial secretary and was the editor of our newsletter “The Grace Gazette” for several years. I currently serve on our congregational board as Parish Life Team Leader.

Connie Klemz – Attends Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Maple Lake, MN. Currently is a school custodian and has worked in the past in insurance and investments. She has served on the church council, been a Sunday School teacher and synod convention delegate.

Jerome Klotz – Jerome is a graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He was ordained in 2016 and presently serves New Hope Lutheran Church in Comfrey, MN. He is a husband of 13 years (to Sarah Beth) and father of five children. He is affiliated with the LCMC and is a certified minister through the Augustana District.

Niki Pokornowski - Has been an active member at Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN for 15 years. She works at Novation Credit Union as a Financial Solutions Officer and has been there for 22 years. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, wedding coordinator, served on the Mugs and Muffins committee and presents Faith Seeds (children’s sermons). She has served on church council for four years; two as treasurer, one as vice-president and one as president.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THEOLOGY & MINISTRY

Pastor Tim Balfanz - Currently a pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Nevis, MN. He attended Luther Seminary and served at Faith Lutheran Church in Moline from 2013-17. Started service at Peace in Nevis in 2018.

Pastor Sarah Carlstrom - Currently a pastor at Crossroads Lutheran Congregation in Dawson, MN since January 2016. Earned her M.Div at St. John's School of Theology and Seminary in St. Joseph, MN and completed Lutheran work at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Previously served for 7-years as a Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator and 6-years as a choir teacher in the public school system.

Pastor Brian Crocker - Currently a pastor at Christus Lutheran Church in Clintonville, WI. Attended seminary for his M.Div. at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He has served at Zion/Calvary Parish in Winter, WI 1998-2007; and at Christus Lutheran Church in Clintonville, WI 2007-present

Pastor Jane Ekholm - Congregation served: Peace Lutheran of Nevis as Intern and Interim Pastor. Luther Theological Seminary graduate MS, M.Div. of Walker, MN. Role: LCMC certified, AD endorsed, awaiting call.

Pastor Tom Walker - Currently serving at Heritage Lutheran Church in Brandon, SD. Obtained his M.Div. and MTh (ABD) from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He has served as the Vice President of Word Alone, Dean of Administration at the Institute of Lutheran Theology, Director of Library and Academic Computing (adjunct faculty) at Luther Seminary. Served as pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Kalispell, MT and as assistant pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT.

The Augustana District is doing amazing things! In proclaiming the Gospel with clarity (Magnify), we have seen the Holy Spirit grow our ministry (Multiply)!



2018 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Business Meeting



Opening Worship Service



Vendors



Sola Publishing



Planning Meeting



Tabor Award



AUGUSTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL

May 2018 – April 2019

Pastor Becky Hand, Chair

Life in Grace - Odessa, Texas

lgloffice@yahoo.com

Dr. Mike Fuchs, Vice-Chair

Hope Lutheran - Huron, SD

mfuchsortho@midconetwork.com

Jan Ferguson, Secretary

Living Word Lutheran - Alexandria, MN.

j.fergus@gmail.com

Niki Pokornowski, Treasurer -

Faith Lutheran - Hutchinson, MN

npokornowski@gmail.com

Terri Bomar

Life in Grace – Odessa, Texas.

mimioflots@yahoo.com

Connie Klemz

Holy Cross Lutheran – Maple Lake MN

connie_Klemz@yahoo.com

Pastor Jerome Klotz

New Hope Lutheran – Comfrey, MN

djeromeklotz@yahoo.com

Pastor Craig Nehring -

Zion Lutheran Church – Caroline, WI and

Peace Lutheran - Split Rock, WI

cnehring@yahoo.com

Chuck Pierson

Faith Lutheran Church – Hutchinson, MN

chuckpierson@mchsi.com

Lew Weeks

Living Word Lutheran – Marshall, MN

lewweeks123@yahoo.com

Pastor Craig Werling

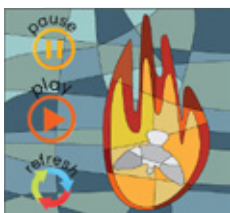
Hosanna Lutheran - Watertown, SD

prcraig56@gmail.com

Save the ~~AD~~ Dates 2019

Augustana District Annual Theological Conference

Monday, February 4 - Tuesday, February 5, 2019



Augustana District Annual Confirmation Retreat

March 8 -10, 2019

Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN

Augustana District Annual Convention 2019

Saturday, May 4



AUGUSTANA DISTRICT STAFF



Pr. Randy Freund
Service
Coordinator

director@augustanadistrict.org



Wendy Magruder
Office
Manager

office@augustanadistrict.org



Diane Pedersen
Financial
Coordinator

finco@augustanadistrict.org



Karen Eckstrom
Webmaster

webadmin@augustanadistrict.org

WOMEN OF THE WORD

WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Saturday, September 15, 2018
Peace Lutheran Church, Watertown, MN.
visit <https://www.augustanadistrict.org>
for more details.

Annual Gathering Registration Now Open



Address Service Requested

Hutchinson MN 55350

335 Main Street S.

AUGUSTANA DISTRICT

