



# AUGUSTANA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

July 2018

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## *What is the Purpose of Districts?*

I recently returned from the annual gathering of LCMC District/Fellowship Coordinators. It is always a good time of renewal, sharing resources, and conversation about LCMC and its mission. As we think about the current and future direction of LCMC, at the heart of it lies the role of districts. Districts have always been a part of the vision behind LCMC, but frankly, many congregations have not yet caught that vision. As I think about the “Why Districts?” question, three things come to mind.

### *1. Districts can strengthen LCMC as an association of congregations.*

LCMC’s by-laws put it this way: 5.01. Congregations, in their sole discretion, may join together in districts and shall adopt governing documents, budgets and other procedures that will allow districts to support the mission of the members of this association. 5.03. Districts shall have such powers to promote and accomplish the objectives of this association that are specifically granted to those districts by member congregations and not otherwise prohibited by these by-laws or the constitution of this association. Written into the LCMC by-laws is the idea that districts give focus and support to the association.

### *2. Districts can give traction and clarity to the LCMC “motto:” Free in Christ. Accountable to One Another. Rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confession. Working together to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission.*

Districts, as well as congregations, need to ask what this actually means. When we say we are “Free in Christ,” what are the distinctions between individual freedom in Christ, congregational

freedom in Christ, district freedom in Christ, association freedom in Christ? When we say that we are “Accountable to one another,” how do we organize in a way that can insure a level of integrity for churches, pastors and leaders in LCMC? We are “Rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions,” but what does “theological accountability” mean? Churches are uniquely called to “Work together to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations,” but how does clarity about the first three points help serve the most important one called the Great Commission?

### *3. Districts can address future needs within LCMC.*

What will serve to further the work of this association called LCMC? What parts of that work could best be carried out by districts? The Augustana District has accomplished much in its short tenure. I think this is because we have clarity about our purpose and call. But there are so many more possibilities that could be addressed by districts (ours or others). We are all concerned about future pastors, teachers and leaders within LCMC. I wonder how the role of LCMC on college campuses and through Bible camps might address this concern and need? This is certainly an area that could be strengthened by LCMC districts. I would encourage all of us to ask the “Why Districts?” question as we strive to answer God’s call in this time and place. I would be thrilled to know your thoughts. Thank you for this partnership!

In Christ,

Pastor Randy Freund, AD Service Coordinator





## FOLLOWING THE "GREAT COMMISSION" . . . . .

Do You Think \$300,000 to Missions Takes Money from Other Causes?

*Thoughts from Pastor Paul, Chairperson of the Board Of World Missions*

Clearly there are legitimate questions about what is visionary and what is prudent in how congregations and Districts steward the resources given to them by their constituents. We on the Board of World Missions seek to be responsive to concerns about matters of balance between the ongoing needs and programs of the Augustana District and world mission endeavors. We also have discovered over the years, that when we are too afraid to step forth in faith in visionary ways, that we inhibit the joyous generosity of our people and the sense of satisfaction in extending our Christian witness.

When you couple joy in generosity with partners that share our faith commitments and are making great sacrifices, personal and financial, we are continuously moved

by how our partners are multiplying our witness to Jesus Christ. In the last four years plus the

Augustana District has sent over \$300,000 to our partners in Ethiopia. Far from hurting our other endeavors, we on the Board of World Missions are convinced these dollars given enliven the full spectrum of our witness as the Augustana District.

We look forward to ongoing partnerships in all aspects of our witness.



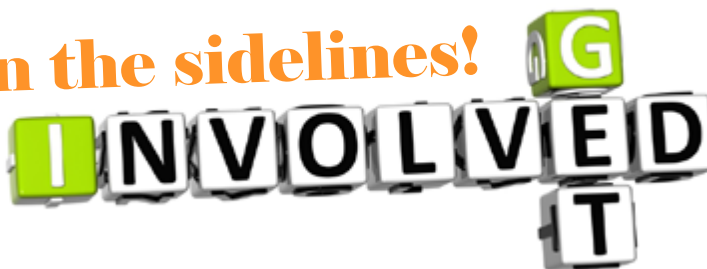


## WOMEN OF THE WORD

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Don't sit on the sidelines!**



2019  
dates  
to Remember



**Feb 4 - 5, 2019 Augustana District Theological Conference**

**Mar 8 - 10, 2019 Augustana District Confirmation Retreat**

**Apr 4, 2019 Augustana District Convention in Alexandria, MN**



# NERD NEWS

## What's new at the website?

1. Most council member personal email addresses have been removed from the website. If you would like to get in touch, please email Wendy Magruder at [office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org) and she can forward information on for you. (Or keep page 6 for your records.)
2. Did you know that you can donate to Augustana District online? Both General Fund and Magnify 2 Multiply offer recurring and one time options. We ask for a minimum donation to cover costs of offering this service. Visit [augustanadistrict.org/donate/](http://augustanadistrict.org/donate/)
3. You can find Save the Date information on the home page by scrolling down:  
[www.augustanadistrict.org](http://www.augustanadistrict.org)
4. You can find archived documents, current and past newsletters on the archives page:  
About Us > Archives & Documents
5. We offer Staff openings for member congregations to post open positions. Navigate to Church > Church Staff Openings > Open Positions. If you have an open position, please fill out the form by scrolling down or send an email to [office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org)
6. Would you like to receive the monthly newsletter? We offer a form at the bottom of every website page for subscribing. Its important to know that when you do subscribe, you will be asked to confirm that "optin". Without confirmation, we cannot send you anything. Then, make certain to "whitelist" [@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:@augustanadistrict.org) emails in your email application via filters. Haven't heard from us in a while? Check your SPAM or Junk folders.



## 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.  
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**Niki Pokornowski, Treasurer -**

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**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  
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“Growing Up” is the theme of our next Annual Gathering, and we’ve invited Dr. Kent Hunter of Church Doctor Ministries to help us to consider how congregations of any size can be focused on the Great Commission and develop a kingdom mindset. Jo Kinnard will be returning this year to serve as our Bible study leader as we reflect on the text of Ephesians 4. It is time for our churches to “grow up” and become mature, hearing the call for every member to carry out the work of ministry as God has designed His Church to do.

## LCMC 18TH ANNUAL GATHERING

OCTOBER 7-10, 2018 @ HYVEE HALL, 730 3RD STREET, DES MOINES, IA 50309

More Info & Registration: [www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering](http://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering)

Don't forget to also register for the District Fellowship Dinner on  
Monday, 6:00 P.M.  
\$30 per person.



## AUGUSTANA DISTRICT STAFF



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## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- Message from Our Director (pg 1)
- Following the "Great Commission" (pg 3)
- Important Dates (pg 4)
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- Augustana District Staff (pg 7)

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Address Service Requested

