



Augustana District Council

Randy Freund, Chair
 Bill Swope, Vice Chair
 Julie Ashbaugh, Treasurer
 Gaylen Lerohl, Secretary
 Eric Knutson
 Ben Luense
 Mike Peterson

Augustana Board of Theology & Ministry

Dave Christensen
 Mike Hanson
 Mark Richardson
 Joel Swedberg

Board of Congregational Services

John Beem
 Chairperson

Board of Publications

Steven King
 Chairperson

Board of Theological Education

Scott Grorud
 Chairperson

Board of World Missions

Paul Knudson,
 Chairperson

Board of Domestic Missions

Craig Werling
 Chairperson

Going Global for Christ!

The Augustana District’s Board of World Missions presented two World Missions Festivals: one at Abounding Joy Lutheran Church in Sartell, Minnesota, on January 21, and another at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Watertown, South Dakota, on February 4.



Dr. Paul Martinson

Featured speaker for the events was Professor Paul Martinson. Born in China, Martinson is a third-generation missionary to China. He gave a compelling presentation about why we, as Christians, are called to spread the Gospel around the world. Paul and his wife, Ida, served as missionaries in China in the 1960s. After that, Paul served as Professor of Missions and Religions at Luther Seminary in St. Paul for 29 years. In his retirement, he has helped develop China Service Ventures, which, among other things, provides Christian Youth Camps in China, along with Bible distribution and teaching English as a second language. Check out their website for more information:

<http://www.chinaserviceventures.org/>

Chair of the Board of World Missions – Pastor Paul Knudson – also gave a meaty and insightful presentation entitled, “Opportunities and Challenges for Our Mission Witness.” As we participate in the reconfiguring of the Lutheran witness, Knudson noted five opportunities before us:



Pastor Paul Knudson

- Mission endeavors must grow out of our core convictions.
- We need to create partnerships with existing mission endeavors that share our core convictions.
- From the grassroots, we need to create large and small networks of support for world missions. This means individual congregations need freedom to forge their own initiatives and to form congregations who work together.
- To have the Augustana District become a catalyst for cooperative work with LCMC, NALC and others in world mission endeavors.
- To encourage every congregation to have a Missions Committee to focus energy and resources on world missions.

As a member of a joint LCMC / NALC / EECMY (Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus) task force, Knudson shared that this new group has begun work to explore how these church bodies can help, share and support one another. Like the Augustana District, the EECMY severed its ties with the ELCA. It is important that LCMC and NALC “step in” to assist and partner with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. A key player in this endeavor is the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, a

(Continued on page 3)

Theological Conference:

“The *Meaning* and *Means* of *Conversion*”

While organizers had hoped for 40 participants, over 70 pastors attended the first annual Theological Conference

of the Augustana District and the Institute of Lutheran Theology. The event was held at the Hyatt Place in Bloomington, Minnesota, from February 5-8 under the theme “The Meaning and Means of Conversion.” Attendees came from around the country and included numerous Augustana District pastors, other LCMC pastors and pastors of the NALC and ELCA.

Summary of the Conference

World-renowned Lutheran historian from Duke University, Dr.

Hans Hillerbrand, kicked off the event with a thorough examination of conversions throughout the history of Christianity. He was followed by Dr. Steven Paulson of Luther Seminary, who gave a resounding presentation on conversion from a confessional Lutheran perspective.

Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, from the Institute of Lutheran theology, followed with his reactions to the previous presentations, as well as offering a scholarly argument from a theological/philosophical point of view.

Lutheran Evangelism Initiative (LEI)

Participants were given a new congregation-ally-based evangelism program written by Dr. Fred Baltz, president of ILT and pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Galena, Illinois. LEI is a reworking of a very effective program used by the ELC, then the ALC as well as other church bodies. This program is available on the Augustana District website, and the District’s



Dr. Hans Hillerbrand



Dr. Steven Paulson

Board of Domestic Missions is available and eager to assist any congregations that would like to embrace it.

The conference was also blessed with a presentation given by Pastors Kelly Wasberg and David Christensen from Living Word Lutheran Church in Marshall, Minnesota. Living Word is among the fastest growing congregations in LCMC, and is deeply invested in campus ministry at nearby Southwest Minnesota State University.

Reflections on the Conference

When asked why the Augustana District considers Theological Conferences to be an important component of what the District provides, Pastor Randy Freund (Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson, Minnesota), who is chair of the Augustana District Council replied, “I think of the Augustana District as a District of LCMC that works hard to promote theological integrity, competence and creativity along with congregational support and services. Therefore it is so important for pastors to come together to be fed theologically and find support through fellowship. This helps create strong pastoral leadership. When we come together for a conference like this, it also gives us a better sense of what congregations need by way of support and service.”

ILT Vice President, Dennis Bielfeldt, had this to offer regarding theological conferences: “ILT is, of course, a very young institution, having

acquired its own non-profit corporation status and its 501(c)(3) at the beginning of 2008. However, ILT theological conferences have occurred each year, so this was ILT's fifth annual theological conference. We have had numerous speakers over the years, including Hans Hillerbrand, Mark Granquist, Andy Bartelt, Steve Paulson, Jim Nestingen, Charles Manske and Dennis Bielfeldt. ILT is pleased to work with the Augustana District in co-sponsoring what we hope to be a yearly ILT/AD Theological conference.”



Drs. Dennis Bielfeldt and Fred Baltz

native of Ethiopia who resigned from his position with the ELCA and is currently Missions Director of the NALC. Knudson said other opportunities for Church-to-Church relations exists with the Madagascar Church as well.

The event also presented an overview of the various missions agencies vetted by the Augustana District's Board of World Missions. Board members Eric Knutson and Jim Peterson shared an overview of these agencies. The AD Board of World Missions invites any and all missions agencies to be endorsed by the District. A listing of these agencies can be found at: <http://www.augustanadistrict.org/missionPartners.html>

The World Missions Festivals together gathered some 100 people who represented 25 different congregations. The Board of World Missions is working to schedule a third event in Wisconsin soon.

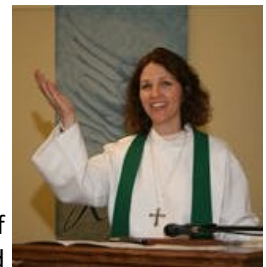
LCMC Mission Forum

A Google-Group forum for sharing information and conversation about world missions has been established for all people interested in world missions. This group is for lay and clergy, members of world missions committees in congregations, and anyone else with an interest and heart for world missions. Mr. Jim Dix, of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Hubertus, Wisconsin, is the moderator of the group. To get more information, or to join the group, email him at: jdix501@gmail.com

This is a terrific venue for connecting with one another in the area of world missions.

Time on Your Knees

A Meditation by Pastor Becky Hand
Life in Grace LC, Odessa, TX



"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1-2

It's all about change... isn't it? Being transformed... it is. Christ changes us, "converts" us, if you will. The Word does a job on us. Sometimes it feels a bit painful, sometimes overwhelmingly joyful, and sometimes we don't even notice it. Jesus Christ changes us in big ways and in little ways, but always in God-ways. The Theological Conference in February addressed the Lutheran version of "Conversion," the radical change from death to life that happens through our baptism, the change that God makes in us. God changes us because we cannot change ourselves. Thank God for... well... for being God.

In our daily repentance and drowning of the old Adam or Eve, we re-celebrate our conversion. The new self rises as the old self dies. Unfortunately, we like dragging our old drown self around with us. Well, the "wet look" really isn't "in" anymore. Can't we rid ourselves of some of the stuff that old Eve or Adam refuses to give up?

One day I was struggling to download an updated program on the computer that I needed for classes at ILT. I attempted this "simple" feat several times over in as many days. I emailed the tech person a few times. I'm sure he rolls his eyes when he sees my pleas of ignorance. If he doesn't, he should. I do. At any rate, I decided to use the troubleshooting link to get some help. After going around in a couple of circles there, I finally decided to take a shot at one of the suggestions. The problem *could* be, as the list of potential problems informed me, that I needed to uninstall the current program, then I could install the new version, the 10.1021.2354.1546 whatever version. In order to accomplish this task, I first had to download an "uninstaller." An *uninstaller*. That's what I needed. So I proceeded in my skeptical state and downloaded the uninstaller, which worked, then I successfully, at least I think it was successful, installed the new and improved version of what I had just uninstalled. That's when it hit me. That's when clarity rang in my state of confusion.

What hit me is that we need an uninstaller. Romans tells us to be transformed or changed by the renewing of our minds. To be altered in our minds is more than just adding in new stuff. The new and Christ-improved version of ourselves needs more than memorized scripture and Godly vocabulary. We need to uninstall some old, obsolete junk. We have past hurts and angers, stepped-on feelings and embarrassments, ignorance and worldliness that we need to remove from our souls and our psyches before the new us can successfully and completely be downloaded. There isn't room in there for all of our old Adam and Eve garbage and all of God's goodness too. Something's got to give.

In light of this new revelation, I hope that you'll speak with your designer soon, transformation *can* be yours! Point out that you have some old worn-out feelings and left-over pains that you're ready to uninstall. Ask him to remove that stuff from you and to keep it away from you forever. The lover of your soul is ready to install a happier, more peaceful, more generous and loving you. You don't even need an email address or a 4G network. A little time on your knees will do it. Happy Transformation!

District Announcements

The Augustana District Convention will be held on Saturday, April 28, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN. Please mark your calendars and "Save the Date." More information will be coming in early March.

Augustana District Pastor Teresa Jacobson will be installed at Grace and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches in Menno, South Dakota, on March 25.

Congratulations to Pastors Teresa and Tom Jacobson upon the birth of their firstborn, Henrik, on November 13!

Welcome to Interim Pastor Dan Christ, who is serving at Peace Lutheran Church, Nevis, MN.

Welcome to Interim Pastor Aaron Albrecht, who is serving at St. Matthew's/Fernando Lutheran Church, Stewart, MN.

Welcome to Interim Pastor Julie Smith, who is serving at St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN.

Welcome to Pastor Janine Rew-Werling, who is serving at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD.

In addition, Augustana District churches known to be in the call process:

- Hazel Run Lutheran Church, Hazel Run, MN
- New Hope Lutheran Church, Comfrey, MN

Another "Save the Date": Women of the Word - Augustana District will hold their

third annual convention on September 22 at Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN.

Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City, IA, is seeking a contracted, one-year interim associate pastor. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, see the position posted at the LCMC website ("Open Positions") or on Morningside's website:

www.morningsidelutheran.com This position could be a good fit for someone nearing retirement or a recent seminary graduate.

District Council will meet on March 3, 9 a.m. to noon, at Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN.

Prayers for Augustana District Pastor Carl Seamon and his wife Solveig. A recent fire destroyed their home.

The Augustana District recently mailed the "Congregational Reporting Form" to all churches of the District. Please complete the form and return it to the District Office at: 335 Main St. S., Hutchinson, MN 55350. If you need another copy of the form, please contact Mark Richardson at mjrichardson@AugustanaDistrict.org

At a regional LCMC event, Service Coordinator Mark Vander Tuig will be talking about the DNA of LCMC and discussing proposed bylaw amendments to be considered at the

next LCMC National Gathering. This event will take place on Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Afton, MN. All LCMC churches in the area are invited and may bring as many people as they wish. Registration is required. See the website: <http://www.shepherd-lutheran.org/#/welcome/lcmc-regional-gathering>

Augustana District Service Coordinator Mark Richardson is available to visit your congregation, preach, and/or provide an informational forum. His schedule is usually six to eight weeks out. Half-time for the Augustana District, Richardson additionally accepted a half-time call as associate pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN.

The Augustana District has now received its own 501(c)3 status. Until now, the District has been covered by LCMC's umbrella. At LCMC's urging, Districts have been encouraged to obtain their own individual 501(c)3 status. All monetary gifts to the District are fully tax deductible.

Ordination

Congratulations and Blessings to Mark Lund upon being ordained on January 22. Pastor Lund has been called to serve Word of God Lutheran Church in Canby, Minnesota. The Ordination took place at Living Word Lutheran Church in Marshall, Minnesota. He was ordained by Rev. Mark Richardson, Service Coordinator of the Augustana District. A recent graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Lund is the son of John and Marilyn Lund of Marshall.



Front row (Left to Right): Rev. Mark Richardson, Rev. Dave Christensen, Rev. Tom Jacobson, Rev. Randy Freund.
Back row (Left to Right): Rev. Tom Stenzel, Rev. Bruce Berg, Rev. Mark Lund, Rev. Kelly Wasberg, Rev. Wolfgang Laudert.

Roster of Augustana District Churches

State	City	Name of Church
IA	Bode	St. Olaf Lutheran Church
IL	Moline	Faith Lutheran Church
MN	Alexandria	Living Word Church
MN	Canby	Word of God Lutheran Church
MN	Comfrey	New Hope Lutheran Church
MN	Dawson	Crossroads Lutheran Congregation
MN	Erhard	Grace Lutheran Church
MN	Gonvick	Samhold Lutheran Church *
MN	Hazel Run	Hazel Run Lutheran Church
MN	Howard Lake	St John's Lutheran Church
MN	Hutchinson	Christ the King
MN	Hutchinson	Faith Lutheran Church
MN	Maple Lake	Holy Cross Lutheran
MN	Marshall	Living Word Church
MN	Maynard	Wang Lutheran Church
MN	Mankato	Resurrection Lutheran Church
MN	Morris	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
MN	Nelson	Fahlun Lutheran Church
MN	Nevis	Peace Lutheran Church
MN	North Branch	Salem Lutheran Church of Oxford
MN	Roseville	Living Word Fellowship
MN	Rushford	Rushford Lutheran Church
MN	Sebeka	Friends in Christ Lutheran Church
MN	Springfield	St. John's Lutheran Church
MN	St. James	Albion Lutheran Church
MN	St Joseph	Abounding Joy Lutheran Church
MN	Starbuck	St. Johns Lutheran Church
MN	Stewart	St. Matthews Lutheran
NE	Blair	Christ Lutheran Church
SD	Britton	First Lutheran Church
SD	Hayes	Deep Creek Lutheran Church
SD	Kidder	Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
SD	Lake City	Lake City Lutheran Church
SD	Milbank	Living Word Church
SD	White	Pioneer Lutheran Church
TX	Gardendale	Life in Grace Lutheran Church
WI	Caroline	Zion Lutheran Church *
WI	Clear Lake	First Lutheran Church
WI	Clintonville	Christus Lutheran Church
WI	Dresser	Bethesda Lutheran Church
WI	Hubertus	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
WI	Tigerton	Peace Lutheran Church *

Missions Contact

Person

The Board of World Missions for the Augustana District would like to compile a list of "Missions Contact People" from congregations. This list will help enhance all sorts of communications between this board and congregations – "emergency" needs, missions projects to consider, reporting the Board's work, and more. Please email the name, address, telephone number, and email address of your contact person to:

mjrichardson@AugustanaDistrict.org.

Funds Are

Appreciated

Your support of the Augustana District is very much appreciated! We welcome contributions from both churches and individuals. Your generous donations help us forge a new Lutheran future together. We request that your church include the Augustana District as a line-item on your church's budget. If this isn't possible for this current year, please consider making a special donation outside your budget. Checks should be made out to "Augustana District" and mailed to: 335 Main St. S, Hutchinson, MN 55350. Individual donations are fully tax deductible under the Augustana District's 501(c)(3) status.

For more information about the Augustana District, please feel free to contact either of the following:

Pr Mark Richardson
mjrichardson@AugustanaDistrict.org
 715-417-1317

Pr Randy Freund
rfreund@hutchtel.net
 320-234-8411

AUGUSTANA DISTRICT
335 MAIN STREET SOUTH
HUTCHINSON, MINNESOTA 55350

