

AUGUSTANA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



335 Main St S • Hutchinson, MN 55350 • 320.587.2093

THEOLOGY CHURCH MISSION

At the April meeting of the Augustana District Council, there was a good feeling around the table (and on the "Zoom" screen). As a district, we ended the year in a strong financial position. This gave encouragement for setting next year's budget and allowed us to move forward on some other giving (see Council Highlights). We should not be surprised by this. We have a gracious, giving God. This makes for a giving people of God.

But one wonders if it would also be accurate to say that we have a "taking" God. Of course, on the surface, this could sound ridiculous and even heretical. It seems to fly in the face of that most basic and beloved Bible verse, John 3:16: "God so loved the world that He gave..."

However, one could also faithfully argue that we have a "taking" God. God takes in all kinds of ways. God takes our sins upon himself. This was certainly a part of our recent Good Friday/Easter proclamations. But we can extend that to other ways of taking. God takes our situations. Once God takes them, He changes and transforms them. Think of Peter and his bitter weeping from his denial. Jesus takes that situation and turns it. In fact, according to Mark's gospel, it is the first Easter words we hear. "Go tell the disciples, even Peter, that I am going before you..." (Mark 16:8). Jesus even takes our lives. We die to self. "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me". (Galatians 2:20). Anything good or giving that comes OUT of us comes only because God has taken us INTO himself. God has taken us over.

So while we will rightly go on speaking of God as a giving God, we would do well also to see God as a taking God. God takes our sin, our situations and our very lives. God even takes over and owns LCMC districts. Like you, I certainly give thanks to God for the direction He is taking our district!

In Christ,
Pastor Randy
Freund



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Yes we do! Dear Pastors, if you write a devotional piece for your congregation's newsletter, we'd love to share it with the district. Please forward one or two of your articles for the district newsletter to Wendy, the AD administrative assistant for the district. Submissions can be sent to office@augustanadistrict.org and are due by the 20th of each month. Thank you!



Augustana District Council Highlights

(from April 13, 2019 meeting)

FINANCIAL NEWS

The Augustana District fiscal year ends well! Congregational and individual giving was up \$5,000 from last year. The fiscal year ended with a surplus of \$21,427. Because of this good news...



1. The District will match a \$500 grant from the Heartland District to make it possible for District Coordinators (without funding) to attend the annual District Coordinator Meeting
2. The District Council established three Chapter Challenge Grants (up to \$5,000/grant)
3. The District Council authorized funding for a Senior High Retreat
4. The District Council approved the 2019-2020 budget for presentation at the Annual Convention

NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dr. Mike Fuchs, Eric Knutson, Pastor Thomas Thorstad, Pastor Nathan Hanson and Pastor Julie Smith are the names the Nomination Committee will present at the Annual Convention.



WELCOME TO NEWLY ENDORSED PASTORS!



The Council approved the following pastors, recommended by the Board for Theology and Ministry: Pastor Patty Sigford, Pastor Joe Pinzl and Pastor Thomas Thorstad.

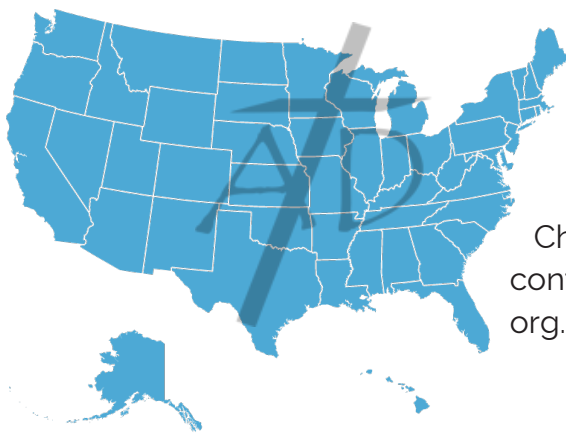
AUGUSTANA DISTRICT SUNDAY Promotional Video

The Augustana District Council has set aside May 19th as Augustana District Sunday! We only ask for a couple of minutes of your announcement time to remind your congregation who AD is and what we do. A 3-minute video will be available on-line at augustanadistrict.org by May 11th and will be previewed at the district convention.

You might consider a pulpit exchange with a fellow AD congregation as we promote "church" through strengthening congregations. This can be as simple as or as elaborate as you would like to make it. If you come up with ideas, let us know. Send them to Wendy at office@augustanadistrict.org.



The Augustana District is offering Something New this year! Plans are in the works for a Senior High Retreat the weekend of December 6-8, 2019 at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN. Start sharing this date with your students and youth leaders and watch for more information later this summer.



DISTRICT CHAPTERS

Are you "Interested in forming an Augustana District Chapter?"

Chapter grants are now available!" For more information, contact Pastor Randy Freund at director@augustanadistrict.org.

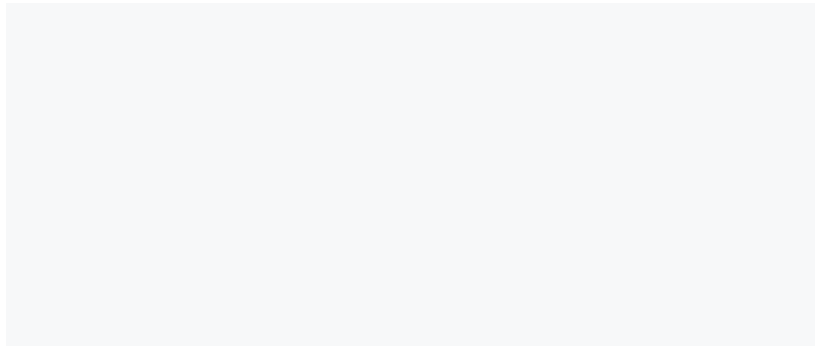
NEWSLETTER CONTEST



The monthly "E-newsletter" needs an update... a new name. What should we call the AD Newsletter? Submit your ideas to office@augustanadistrict.org by MAY 20. The winner will be announced in the June Newly Named Newsletter!

Note: A committee of highly qualified newsletter aficionados will judge the competition. Good luck to you!

P.S. The winner will get a free convention pass for the 10th Annual Convention in 2020 as well as a free lifetime supply of Augustana District Newsletters to share with your friends and family! Send your suggestions in TODAY!



Address Service Requested

AD
AUGUSTANA DISTRICT
335 Main Street S.
Hutchinson MN 55350

Augustana District WOW (Women of the Word) Annual Gathering

Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8a.m. - 3 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church in Nevis, MN

LCMC 19th Annual Gathering and Convention

September 29 – October 2, 2019

CHI Health Center, Omaha, NE

(Registration information can be found on the LCMC website <https://www.lcmc.net/>)

First Annual Augustana District High School Retreat

December 6-8, 2019

Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN



Watch the Augustana District Website: Augustanadistrict.org and the Facebook page for registration information on these events as it becomes available.