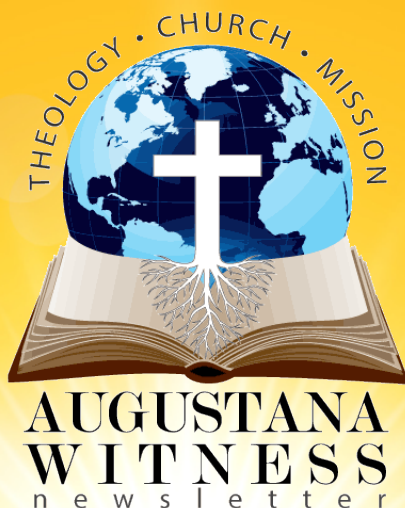


devotional



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CONTACT US:

Email Wendy Magruder,
Office Manager
office@augustanadistrict.org

Email Pr. Randy Freund,
Service Coordinator
director@augustanadistrict.org

Email Pr. Becky Hand,
Program Coordinator
b.hand@augustanadistrict.org

AD Office Phone: 320.234.8403

Mailing Address:
335 Main St. S
Hutchinson, MN 55350

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. “

-Isaiah 9:2



The “people who walked in darkness...” What do you think about those people? Do you feel sad for them? Do you resent them for being in darkness? Do you feel completely separated from them? Or are you aware that we too, have darkness?

We have been called by the Light of the world to follow him. We have been washed clean of our sins and forever tied to the Lord in the waters of baptism. Yet, the darkness remains. There is darkness around us, and there is still darkness in us. Maybe you wished that part of you had remained drowned in baptism, but it rears its ugly head. Our own darkness seeps out as jealousy, selfishness, greed, lies, lusts, pride, gluttony, laziness and much more.

So whatever our thoughts about “people in darkness” we need to think about ourselves. We are heaven-bound by the promise and grace of God. The Light has shined upon our souls. Yet, we still live in and live out darkness. Our escape plan is eternal. In the meantime,

It's interesting that the season of Epiphany, the season of Light, comes before Lent, a time when we examine our own darkness. We are blessed to be in the Light. We are blessed to know that we don't have to remain in the dark. The Light of Epiphany returns with gusto on Easter morning. The darkness of Lent gets overwhelmed by the glory of the resurrection. One day our own darkness will give way completely to the Light of World. He entered human form and entered our death that we may see the Light. Though we still have some darkness, though the world around us exists in darkness, on us the Light has shown. Praise be to God Almighty! He is the Light of the world and we have seen a great light!

Pastor Becky Hand



 Pause
  Play
  Refresh
 2020 Confirmation Retreat

The brochure and the emergency contact form are available at the site.

Register Now

See full details and registration at
augustanadistrict.org/2020-confirmation-retreat/

From The Board of World Missions

The AD Board of World Missions met in January with the following results: \$12,800 was sent to our partner congregation in Tabor, Ethiopia, \$5,345 was sent for North Central Ethiopia Synod (NCES), and \$1,500 for pastors in northern India with All India Masihi Jamat (AIMJ). The board decided to pledge \$45,000 this year to Tabor for their evangelist's salaries (this represents 30% or less of the salaries paid), plus we'd like to raise funds to help meet another need. This may include construction costs or bicycles or motorbikes. Stay tuned for more info.

Prayer Request

- In India, both Christians and Muslims are being persecuted by Hindus.
- Tribes in Ethiopia are facing dangerous conflicts and threats.
- New Christians in India facing resistance from family, friends, coworkers, and officials.

Please keep our brothers and sisters in harm's way covered in prayer.

Prayer of the Month

Most holy and gracious God, we see your word at work in the lives of so many people around the world. Help us to remember that your word is at work in our lives too. We celebrate as people of different faiths answer your call and believe in your Son, the Light of the World. Make us bold to share your love with people around us, may your word work through us to touch others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Mission Minute

by Parthibi Begum

'I am Parthibi Begum. I come from an orthodox Muslim family. I have my mother Sufia Begum and father Seikh Karimul Hoque. He works as a farmer and has a small piece of land inherited by my grandfather. Because we have a small land, the overall income was less but we managed to eat two meals a day. I wanted to



help him to generate for income and decided to work with him on the farm. He denied me to work on the farm as he didn't want me to work day and night like him.

Few days later, I came to know that free tailoring classes are given to the women in the village for generating income by The Muneer Social Welfare Society. I decided to enroll my name for the classes. It was one-year training program and all those who would complete the training will get Diploma Certificates too. On the first day of our class, Muneer Community Workers told us about their goal '*Smile on every face*'. After hearing this, I thought that this is the right place for me. But right before giving the training our teacher prayed to Jesus. Hearing the prayer, I came to know that they were Christians.

But I never told this to my parents as they would not let me continue this training. For the sake of earning money, I ignored the fact that this place was run by Christians.



Every day, they would teach us lessons from Bible and tell us stories of Jesus. This happened while we were in the class. They never took extra time to teach these things. Eventually, I began to like these stories, teachings and looked forward to learning more the next day. The stories were told by Bro. Abdul Rashid. Even though he was not our teacher, he looked after the center and all the students. I also began to enjoy their prayers as they always prayed for us and our families. I also began to tell the stories and teachings to my parents but never told them that these were from Bible. They too liked listening to the stories and teachings. After I got my diploma Bro. Abdul Rashid also gave me literatures and told me that he knows that I like what was being taught in the classes and I should read these literatures to know more about Jesus. The books that he provided to me are namely '*Life of Christ*'; '*Do you know God's Salvation is ready for you?*'; '*God is one in the Holy Trinity*'; '*Did God appear in the flesh?*' etc. I took the books and started reading them.



One day my father saw that I was reading the books. After he read the name of the books, he became really angry. He told me that I should not read these books and told me to throw them immediately. My

mother was also furious and told me that a Muslim should not read these things. I told them about all the teachings and stories were also not from Quran but they were teachings of Jesus Christ from Bible. My parents were

shocked to hear this as they thought that these teachings were from Quran. I pleaded them to read and understand the literature. Because they already knew about the stories and teachings, they agreed with me to read the literatures every day. It took us almost a year to read and understand these books. I also called Bro. Abdul Rashid for assistance and clearing our doubts. After that we all began to believe in Jesus. So, Bro. Abdul Rashid invited us to his church for fellowship. He then encouraged us and took us to attend in various seminars which

made our faith stronger. So, all of us accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior by August 2018. People in our village criticized us once they came to know about our new faith. But we never looked back and all of us took baptism on 18 October 2019. God blessed our family and now our family income is stable as I am also earning money by stitching clothes. Please pray for us so that we could bring our friends and relatives to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.'

WELCOME to the Augustana District

Iglesia Lutterana San Pedro, Inc.
dba His Light Ministries-Ministerio SU Luz
in Miami, Florida



Registration Now Open

10th Annual District Convention Anniversary Banquet

Friday, May 1

Christ the King, Hutchinson MN

District Convention

Saturday, May 2

Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN



Featured Guest Speaker
Minnesota Supreme Court Justice

The Honorable
G. Barry Anderson

“What Comes Next?”

register online at augustanadistrict.org/2020-district-convention/

Augustana District Treasurer's Report



Thank you so much for your generous support of Augustana District. Financial contributions in 2019 were up over 8% from the previous year. Our income exceeded expenses by \$5,000. This is good news given how much the mission of Augustana District, and the services we offer, continue to grow. What is really exciting is that one third (33%) of all the money that comes into Augustana District goes back out to support missions. To meet our budgeted goal we still need to raise \$33,123 between now and the end of our fiscal year on March 31, 2020. Prayerfully consider supporting the district so we can continue to serve Christ and spread the Gospel locally and throughout the world.

Eric Knutson, AD Treasurer

Thrivent™ Choice Dollars

If you hold Thrivent products you may be eligible for "Choice Dollars". If you are eligible for these Choice Dollars you can donate them to any non-profit that you choose. If you do not designate a non-profit for your dollars that money goes back to Thrivent. This past year the Augustana District was approved by Thrivent to be one of the recipients of their Choice Dollar program.

There are two ways to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the Augustana District.

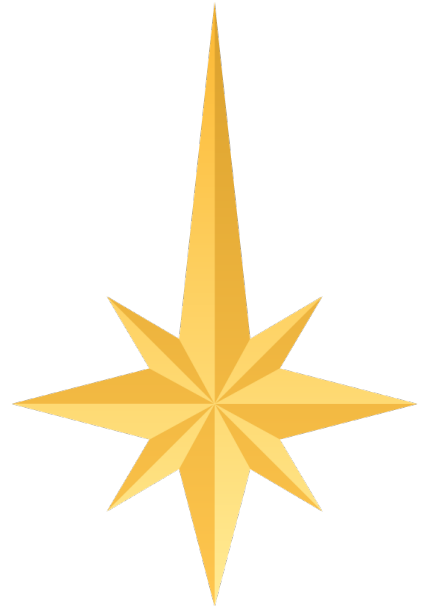
1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" which will connect you to an agent. Tell them that you would like to donate your Choice Dollars to the Augustana District, and they will proceed with you from there.
2. You can also donate your Choice Dollars by logging into your account at Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice and direct your Choice Dollars to Augustana District from there.

Note that donations of **Choice Dollars earned in 2019 can be designated up to March 31, 2020.** So please, designate your Choice Dollars to the Augustana District today.



**THRIVENT
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Connecting faith & finances for good.™



AUGUSTANA DISTRICT
335 Main Street S.
Hutchinson MN 55350
Address Service Requested

HAPPY EPIPHANY



**Confirmation
Retreat**

March 6-8
Luther Crest
Alexandria, MN

Registration Ends Feb 15

District Convention

May 1 - 2, 2020
Hutchinson MN.