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CONTACT US:

E-mail Wendy Magruder,  
Office Manager  
[office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org)

E-mail Pr. Randy Freund,  
Service Coordinator  
[director@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:director@augustanadistrict.org)

E-mail Pr. Becky Hand,  
Program Coordinator  
[b.hand@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:b.hand@augustanadistrict.org)

AD Office Phone: 320-587-2093

Mailing Address:

335 Main St. S  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

## "So, What Are You Giving-up For Lent?"



It's a question Christians ask each other this time of year. Lent is a 40 day season leading up to Easter Sunday that begins on Ash Wednesday. Now, if you're counting, there are actually 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (the day

before Easter Sunday). Lent is considered a 40-day season as the Sundays do not figure into the total; Sundays are a smaller feast day to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. So, Lent is a season when Christians often "give something up" during those 40 days.

Giving something up for Lent, however, doesn't make God love you any more than he does already—He loves you entirely now in Christ Jesus! We do give something up if we choose to, to better focus our heart, mind, and body on the suffering of our Lord Jesus and upon his death on a cross—all leading up to the joyous glory of resurrection Easter Sunday!

So, what might you give up this season of Lent? If you so desire, give up something that you don't want to give up—something that will give its absence a sharper focus on what Christ Jesus did for you in his suffering and death. I do not need to make a list of everyday things to give up; you know what it is for you that will make the most impact. Just be honest with yourself, take a deep breath, and commit to giving it up for Lent.

Whatever you do, remember Who it is that truly gave something up—for you—Jesus Christ:

*"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

*rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*  
(Philippians 2:5-11 NIV).

In Christ,

*Pastor Todd*

Pastor Todd Mathison

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lamberton, MN



## Prayer of the Month

Holy Father, as we enter the journey of Lent, as we walk with our Lord toward the cross, as we remember our sin that crucified him who knew no sin walk with us. Do not abandon us to the grave but be our hope. In your steadfast faithfulness, remind us of your great love for all your saints, and use us to share your love and forgiveness with those around us. You are our only hope. All honor and glory to you Lord Jesus. Amen.



## Save The Date 2021

Mark your calendar now  
and save the date for the 2021  
conference to be held  
February 8-9, 2021  
in Bloomington, MN!



# Mission Minute

ALL INDIA MASIHI JAMAT



## BAPTISM CAMP:

By the grace of God, All India Masihi Jamat had organized 7 baptism camps and 73 people were baptized. Details are given below:

- ✚ First baptism camp was conducted on 11th Jan. 2020 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in which 8 candidates were baptized. It was conducted under the leadership of Pr. Rouf Khan and Pr. Abdul Majeed.
- ✚ Second baptism camp was held on 12th Jan. 2020 at Bihar and Jharkhand Boarder and 10 people were baptized. Pr. Mohammad Tasmael and Pr. Samuel Zaman had organized it.
- ✚ Third baptism camp was conducted on 21st Jan. 2020 at Canning South, 24 Parganas, West Bengal, in which 9 people were baptized. It was conducted by Pr. Hannan Laskar.
- ✚ Fourth baptism camp was organized on 23rd Jan. 2020 at Kalindi, East Medinipur, West Bengal and 14 people were baptized. It was done under the leadership of Pr. Anjali and Pr. Saima Begum.
- ✚ Fifth baptism camp was held on 26th Jan. 2020 at Deuli, Howrah, West Bengal, in which 16 people took baptism. It was combinedly organized by Pr. S.K. Jana and Pr. Shivani.
- ✚ Sixth baptism camp was organized on 28th Jan. 2020 at Barpeta, Assam in which 11 people were baptized. Pr. Rahim Ali and Pr. Julhas Ali had conducted it.
- ✚ Seventh baptism camp was conducted on 28th Jan. 2020 at Agartala, Tripura in which 5 people took water baptism. It was organized under the leadership of Pastor Ismael Liton.





# Theological Conference Review

After the Chiefs won the Superbowl, a group of Augustana District pastors, laypeople, and guests gathered for our annual Theological Conference in Bloomington, MN. Although our in-person attendance was down, we are grateful to numerous participants who joined us via Zoom. Pastor Craig Werling, Hosanna at Watertown, SD, was the preacher at the opening worship and confessed: "I'll Be the Chief Fool," and invited the rest of us to continue to preach and uphold the foolishness of the cross as the saving message of the Gospel.



Following the opening worship, the Rev. Nicholas Hopman joined us from Princeton Theological Seminary. Nicholas is a graduate student and gave an introduction to the development and organization of the book, *The Essential Forde*. Nick helped us to explore some of his own theological study and interest related to various first and second generation Lutheran controversies. His emphasis on the distinction between law and gospel helps us to clearly articulate election differently than Judaism. The Rev. Dr. Steven Paulson joined us again this year as well. Paulson spoke on Luther's treatise on good works as well as the inherent, human "predestination sickness" and fostered a clear understanding of election and the work of proclamation in both Word/preaching and sacraments.



Also, this year, Brad Jenson provided a wonderful study guide on Forde's **Where God Meets Man**. It is available to all pastors and congregations within Augustana. It would provide an excellent introductory course for members of your congregation into the Lutheran witness and Forde's razor-sharp commitment to the theology of the cross. Pastor Nate Hanson was the preacher at our closing worship, encouraging everyone to preach and practice offering the benefits of Christ "for you."

# Augustana District Treasurer's Report



Augustana District (AD) is very thankful to have raised over \$109,000 this fiscal year. This is still \$21,000 short of our budgeted goal of \$130,000. Since our fiscal year ends on March 31st we encourage you to get your contributions in as soon as possible. We are blessed by the fact that over \$25,000 of the giving to AD this year has come from individuals. Of the 84 congregations in AD, 54 have made contributions to AD this fiscal year. While we are thankful for that, we would love to see that number improve to 100%. As always we thank you for your generous support and ask for your continued prayers!

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.

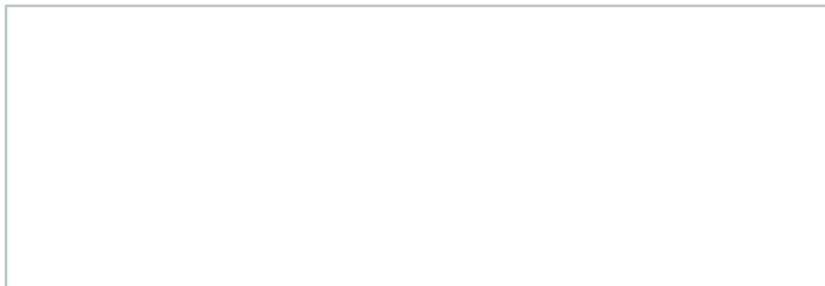
There are two ways to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the Augustana District.

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](https://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.



***A big thank you to those of you who have already donated your Choice Dollars!***



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



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention Anniversary Banquet

Friday, May 1

Christ the King, Hutchinson MN

## District Convention

Saturday, May 2

Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN

Registration Is Now Open

Featured Guest Speaker  
Minnesota Supreme Court Justice

The Honorable  
G. Barry Anderson

*“What Comes Next?”*



Visit [augustanadistrict.org/2020-district-convention](http://augustanadistrict.org/2020-district-convention) for more information