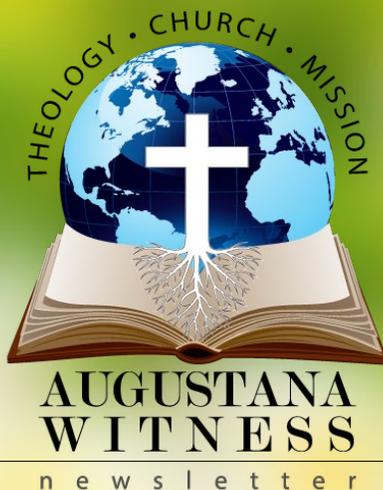


DEVOTIONAL



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“A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow. All things are wearisome; more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing.

“Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has already been, in the ages before us. The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them.”

Ecclesiastes 1:4-8, 10-11

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

A year ago I bet you could never have predicted our current state of affairs. Things are very different this year from last year. One of the jokes I heard was that we need to re-boot this year, the 2020 version has a virus. Things have been stressed and strained and some breaking points have been surpassed. Yet here we are. As the passage above tells us, “what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.” This old earth has seen it all before, and though change is a constant, people continually suffer the same. Pandemics and economic downfalls are not new, but the hot-off-the press iPhone is new. Going to Mars (one day) is new. Wearing masks in public is new. Concern over providing for your family and the moral decay of society is not new. We live in a time where the information highway has taken so many side roads we can no

longer distinguish truth from fiction. Lies sell better than truth.

The truth, however, is what the church is all about. We gather to hear truth spoken into our lives. "Your sins are forgiven" is a necessary truth from God that we need to hear often. It's a truth that Jesus often said. Our need for those words is as old as the hills, but forgiveness of our sins is still essential today. It is also a word we not only need to hear, but we need to say to others. "I forgive you" goes a long way in restoring what the evil one has tried to destroy.

Amid the changes we are experiencing there are basic things that never change. We need

community, we need to serve the Lord, to forgive and be forgiven. Just as we have these requirements, so do others in our community. It is our God-given task to befriend those who don't have a church family, to offer to be their brother or sister in Christ. Sometimes this happens within the walls of a church building; often it happens outside of those walls. This is how we are to be the church, the Body of Christ, in these changing times. As far as God's tremendous love and mercy for his children and his call to us to extend that love to others, there is indeed, "nothing new under the sun."

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Pastor Becky Hand

MISSION MINUTE

The following in an excerpt from Pr. Asad, the organizer of AIMJ

The government of India declared a nationwide lock-down from March 25, 2020... [Mostly] it has impacted those who are living on the edge of poverty, like daily wager workers, farmers, rickshaw pullers, maid servants, widows, elderly people and infirm in the society. Soon after the lock-down was imposed, The Muneer Social Welfare Society started survey work through

our social workers. We found that people are in need of our help, as many of them requested food ration and even guidance of this COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Welfare Society had organized 9 relief camps for COVID-19 pandemic.





A package containing the following relief materials were provided to each family.

Rice	10 kg	Soap.....	2 pcs.
Flour	5 kg	Sanitizer	1 bottle
Pulses	2 kg.	Towel	4 pcs. (to be used as mask on face)
Soybean	½ kg.	Potatoes.....	2 kg.
Oil.....	1 liter	Onion.....	2 kg.

AIMJ COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF:



March 22 - May 21, 2020 in five states of India. They are namely: West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Approximately 11,560 people were served. That include 1,565 families were provided with dry ration, 3,100 families provided with cooked food, 2,220 families with hygiene items and 135 girls provided safety kits.

Our pastors (serving as social workers and

volunteers) had selected the people and the families from different categories in the society. They all are so happy with getting relief packages.

To carry on relief work smoothly, we applied for and received permission from local authorities. Further, our relief work was appreciated and published in several local newspapers.



10th Annual District Convention Anniversary Banquet

Friday, Sept. 25

Christ the King, Hutchinson MN

District Convention

Saturday, Sept. 26

Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN

Featured Guest Speaker
Minnesota Supreme Court Justice

The Honorable
G. Barry Anderson

“What Comes Next?”



No one can project what September 25-26 may look like and what CDC and MN pandemic guidelines will be. We hope that the Augustana District will still celebrate 10 years of ministry at an annual convention! In order to accommodate participation, we anticipate more online delegates and visitors. In addition to this reality, we are proposing a plan for...

ONE CONVENTION – THREE SITES

1. The main site for the convention will still be Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN
2. Our two Bible Study Leaders will “Zoom in” from their locations
 - Pastor Julie Smith, St. John’s, Springfield, MN
 - Pastor Nate Hanson, Living Word Lutheran, Alexandria, MN
3. Springfield and Alexandria will function as ADDITIONAL SITES for people to gather.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION,
THE BANQUET AND ANY ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

Visit augustanadistrict.org/2020-district-convention for more information

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Almighty God and Father, in all your glory and splendor you have chosen to be mindful of us, mere mortals. You have redeemed us and continually care for us. We pray that you guide LCMC and the board as we walk through selecting a new Service Coordinator. We pray that you bring physical, emotional, spiritual, racial, and economic healing to this country. We pray that the power of your Holy Spirit increase in these days, and that your mercy and forgiveness wash over this nation just as it does for each of us. We ask your guidance and blessing for the Tabor congregation and for AIMJ. May we walk in peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Oh God — my heart breaks for those who cry.
my heart cries for those who fear.
my heart aches for those who are in pain.
my soul cries out for those who have no hope.



Help me be a source of strength for those whose tears flow.
Help me to be a source of courage for those who fear.
Help me be a comfort to those in pain.
And a reflection of your light to those who are hopeless.

For you catch each tear that falls.
You are the refuge and stronghold for those who are afraid.
You are the healer for those who hurt,
And you are Hope for the hopeless.



IS YOUR CONGREGATION INTERESTED IN HOSTING THE 2021 CONVENTION?

If so please contact the office at 320-234-8403
or by emailing us at office@augustanadistrict.org

BOARD OF WORLD MISSIONS

AUGUSTANA’S NEW VETTED MINISTRY, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MYANMAR

On behalf of the Board of World Mission, we would like to introduce the Lutheran Church of Myanmar, which has recently completed the vetting process that is required to become a vetted ministry. The Lutheran Church of Myanmar (LCM), the country formerly known as Burma was formed in 2000 and is headquartered in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar. LCM currently has ten congregations, two preaching stations (outreach ministry), three free education centers, two children’s homes, and a seminary. LCM operates under a national synod that meets throughout the year to conduct ministry and business meetings. Their three educational outreaches have become the center of their community work. The first is called Damadi Home, and the other two go by the name of the Hope Education Center, one based in Htauak Kyant township and the other in Pyae village near Inle Lake, Shan State. Both centers offer free education to underprivileged children who cannot afford

to go to school. The school provides primary education along with reaching the families with the Gospel. They also offer a relief arm of the church called Helping Hands Relief Work. The relief arm provides resources to thousands of families around the country and in crucial ministry outreach areas. Their seminary is called Myanmar Institute of Lutheran Theology (MILT) and currently offers up to a bachelor’s degree in ministry. LCM is looking for key partners to support their ministry to the country of Myanmar. They have mission trip opportunities to support their three education centers and a need for theological teachers for their seminary. If your congregation is looking to partner or would like any additional information about LCM you are welcome to contact the President of the LCM, Rev. Martin Lalthangliana at lcmyanmar@gmail.com or you can contact the BWM contact for this ministry, Pastor Tom Thorstad, at pastortom@stpetersanborn.com

Tuingo Lutheran Church – funds needed for continuation of church



LCM National Youth Conference

Damadi Home Children



Bible teaching in Bago mission field



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Your Augustana District Board did anticipate a potential decline in giving due to the global pandemic that is affecting all of us. We have been tracking the finances of this organization very carefully. While we did see a significant drop in giving in April and May, we are encouraged by what looks to be a positive increase in giving in June. Thanks to the staff for working hard to reduce their expenses wherever possible. We hope and pray that as your church activities start picking up you can consider giving to the district to help us continue to fulfill our critical mission. We operate on the faith and knowledge that God will provide and help us navigate through these difficult times.

Eric Knutson, AD Treasurer



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please send all contributions for the Augustana District, Tabor or AIMJ to:

Augustana District
335 Main St. S.
Hutchinson, MN 55350



Save the 2021 Dates

- ★ Theological Conference February 8-9 in Bloomington, MN
- ★ Confirmation Retreat March 5-6 in Alexandria, MN

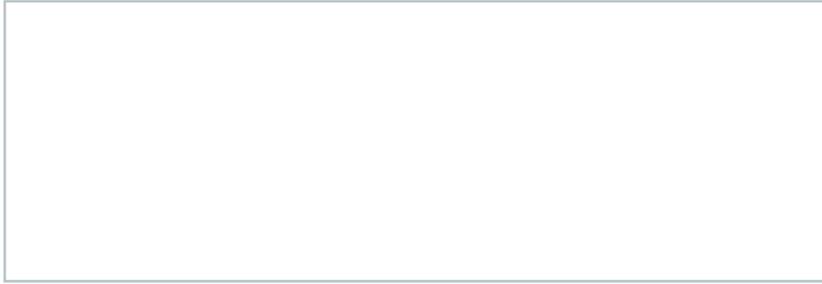
2020 WoW Gathering Postponed

September 18, 2021

Will still be hosted by Crossroads Lutheran Congregation

Location: 2948 180th St. Dawson, MN 56232

Theme: "We walk by faith and not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7



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