

BIBLE STUDY DEVOTIONAL

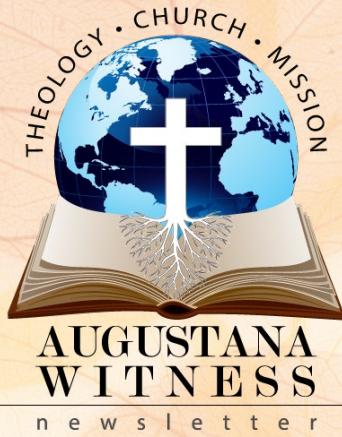


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At the District Convention on Saturday, September 26, we will have two Bible study sessions focusing on John chapter 20. These sessions will be led by pastor Julie Smith and pastor Nathan Hanson. Below you will find a brief description of the focus of their studies.

Seeing is believing? Touching is believing?

“I’ll believe it when I see it.” We have all heard that expression. Perhaps we have even said it. But when we stop and think about it, it makes no sense at all. If you see, there is no need to believe. If you believe, you do not need to see. Faith and sight are not the same thing. They are very nearly opposites.

Our Bible studies at the District Convention will focus on John chapter 20. This chapter is comprised of the first Easter appearances of Jesus. Mary sees Jesus. Ten of the disciples see Jesus. Eventually Thomas sees Jesus. But none of them know what to make of their seeing because what they are seeing is something they cannot be seeing. They already saw Jesus dead. They cannot now be seeing him alive. That’s not how things work.

If we read these accounts a little more carefully, we will notice that, even though their focus is on what they’ve seen, the difference maker is actually what they hear. The difference maker is the Word spoken to them, the Word speaking to them.

Our convention theme is 2020 Vision. We will have many opportunities to see where our Savior is at work in the world and in our congregations. We will gather around a vision for what the Augustana District is called to be and do in the coming years. But as with any gathering of the people of God, at the center of it all will not be a sight but a sound.

The Word is what feeds our faith, fuels our mission. The Word is calling this community together. Anchored in that Word we are set on a mission to bear witness to the life we have in Jesus’ name – a witness that will be a blessing to others who have not seen, but will yet come to believe.

Pastor Julie Smith

BIBLE STUDY DEVOTIONAL

An Old and Familiar Story?

Here we have an old story of the faith, maybe third behind the Christmas story and the first session of scripture scrutinized by believers and agnostics alike, the account of Thomas missing the party of Jesus' appearance to the gang. It begins with a "Silent Slip" and goes out with a "Shout!"

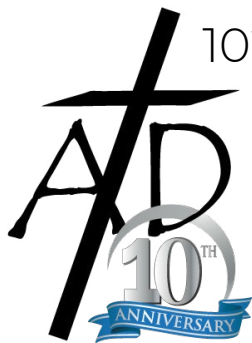
As you might suspect, there are twists and turns to the study of this passage, but we needn't make more of it than what it really says. If you are anything like the Christian I am, you will find surprises in those things the Bible says about this event, and what it does not say about what we study.

There will be some comparisons with various

translations, all of them in English. (I know very little Norwegian, but I can say "Thank you" and ask directions to the train station.)

This will be a brief study, more inclusive of questions than answers, because that seems to be my strength. It would be helpful if you were to have read the passages to each of these studies before they are presented, but as we are Lutherans saved by grace, this is hardly a demand. Do pray for our convention and for the sites, and their presenters, and prepare for a great (though Covid-inhibited) time "together as best we can gather."

Pastor Nathan Hanson

10th Annual District Convention

District Convention

Saturday, September 26, 2020

8:00 a.m. Registration Starts

Faith Lutheran Church

Hutchinson, MN

Featured Guest Speaker

Minnesota Supreme Court Justice

The Honorable G. Barry Anderson

“Religious Liberty: What It Is and Why We Need It”



DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 11

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONS

Churches, please invite your councils to listen in to this timely topic. You can join via Zoom for just \$25/ location and invite as many people as you would like to listen to as much or as little of the convention as you want.

Register Today at <https://augustanadistrict.org/2020-district-convention/>

2020 Convention Highlights

Distinguished Service Award

This is the second year that the Augustana District will present the Distinguished Service Award to a person who has had a great impact on the formation and/or success of the district. This award will be presented during the morning session of the convention on Saturday, September 26. Register today to be there for this exciting presentation.

Meet the New LCMC Service Coordinator

We are excited to announce that the new LCMC Service Coordinator, Pastor Mike Bradley, will be attending and addressing the convention on Saturday. You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet him!

2020 Initiative

Part of the District Convention this year will be to look at plans for the future of the Augustana District through a 2020 Initiative including some of the following ideas.

1. The AD is looking at a Senior High Youth Event at the AD Convention in 2021 and the need for Pastor's to identify youth who may be candidates for ministry work.
2. Another consideration is a Youth Event in conjunction with the AD Convention. This may be a modification of the previously planned Senior High Event.
3. From this group and from Pastor's suggestions we would like to develop a Youth Task Force.
4. This, hopefully, extends into some Summer intern/creative staffing situations.
5. As this Youth Task Force enters college, we would like to follow them to campuses and begin campus ministry sites.
6. Hopefully this develops into summer camp ministries as well.



Save the 2021 Dates

- ✓ Theological Conference February 8-9, 2021, in Bloomington, MN
- ✓ Confirmation Retreat March 5-6, 2021, in Alexandria, MN
- ✓ Augustana District Convention on Saturday, May 1, 2021, in Springfield, MN.
- ✓ Next WoW Gathering September 18, 2021, in Dawson, MN

WHAT IS LCMC 3.0?

“LCMC 3.0” is popping up in recent communications from the association. What does it mean and why does it matter to the Augustana District? As a member of the LCMC Board of Trustees and Service Coordinator of the District, it seemed important to say something about this.

The simple explanation is that the LCMC Board of Trustees has now selected its third Service Coordinator, Pastor Mike Bradley. LCMC 3.0 indicates a new direction with a new Service Coordinator.

However, it is more complicated than this. When it was clear that Pastor Mark Vander Tuig was to retire, LCMC hired a consultant to review and evaluate the status of the association. This consultant made recommendations to the board for moving forward. This is all a part of LCMC 3.0.

The part of LCMC 3.0 that is of interest to the Augustana District has to do with two recommendations that came from the consultant: 1) Regional development and 2) the articulation of common theological language. LCMC 3.0 imagines a future where groups of congregations are held together by region and common ministry endeavors. Currently, LCMC is largely perceived as individual and independent congregations held together by

a Constitution, Statement of Faith and our Name, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

What if groups of congregations or districts or fellowship were more intentional and mutual ministry interests and made themselves accountable to one another? A primary duty of the New Service Coordinator will be to facilitate this move. Along with this, the question is being asked, “Is it time for LCMC to be more specific about “Lutheran distinctives?” In other words, what would it look like to articulate Lutheran commitments? In naming these, how does this help Christian witness in the context of our culture.

As a non-geographic district of LCMC, Augustana has and continues to regionally connect around a common commitment and purpose with the focus on Theology. Church. Mission. LCMC 3.0 imagines that the future of the association will emphasize something similar in future years, namely, regional connections among congregations around theological commitments that serve the Great Commission.

Pastor Randy Freund

Augustana District Service Coordinator



LCMC 20th Annual Gathering and Convention

This year the annual gathering will be held at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, MN on Monday, October 5. Because of the restrictions placed on large group gatherings by the State of MN, the gathering is limited to 250 people. Registration is first come first serve, online only, and limited to voting delegates. It will be live-streamed with a more interactive experience this year for those “attending” from home. Please go to the LCMC website at [LCMC.net/annual-gathering](https://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering) for more information and to register your congregations delegates today!

Mission Moment

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

On behalf of the members of the Augustana District Board of World Missions, I want to give you an update of how we are trying to better define, for our member congregations and mission minded individuals, which mission organizations we encourage and/or forward support.

The members of the Board of World Missions are a diverse group, with a least one member coming from congregations out of Illinois, Minnesota, New York, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington. Thus, like most Augustana District Boards and task forces, we meet virtually to continue this broad intersection of dedicated members.

Within our last two meetings we have taken a hard look at the “Vetted” ministries that appear on the Augustana District Website, as being worthy recipients of direct or directed support from our congregations. To this end, we will be updating the website to reflect two categories of Missions: Key District Mission Partners and Vetted Mission Organizations.

Key District Mission Partners will include those that we have worked with in establishing procedures and

accountability in financial pass-through.

Congregations can feel secure that every dollar given through the District to a designated key partner will be sent in direct support. We currently have three such Key Partners: Tabor Evangelists Project (Hawassa, Ethiopia), North Central Ethiopian Synod, and All India Mashini Jamat.

Vetted Mission Organizations are those that have at the heart of their mission the preaching of the Gospel. These organizations will have gone through a vetting process by the Board for World Missions, so that we can feel confident in recommending that congregations consider them as worthy partners in mission. Many of these Vetted Mission Organizations have key individuals within the Augustana District that could be “local” contacts for learning how to best partner with these Vetted Mission Organizations.

So, watch the website for changes to reflect the two above categories, prayerfully consider, and then make plans in how we can together “preach the Word” to all nations!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Tom Christenson

Board of World Missions Chair



Endorsed Clergy:

- ★ Paul Nichol – Faith Lutheran in Monticello, MN

New Congregations:

- ★ Trinity Lutheran Church – Jeffers, MN
- ★ Bethany Lutheran Church – Storden, MN

PRAYER REQUEST

Due to the recent flooding in two states in India, Assam and Bihar, believers have been severely affected. Please pray for Assam and Bihar.

- ✠ Assam: In Assam there are 30 districts in which approximately 400,000 people are affected. About 280 believer families have been staying in roadside tents for two and half months.
- ✠ Bihar: In Bahar there are 10 districts, with approximately 230,000 people affected due to the recent flood, especially three districts namely: Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, and West Champaran. Muzaffarpur district has had from 1-3 feet of water. Moreover approximately 230 believers' families have been affected by floods.

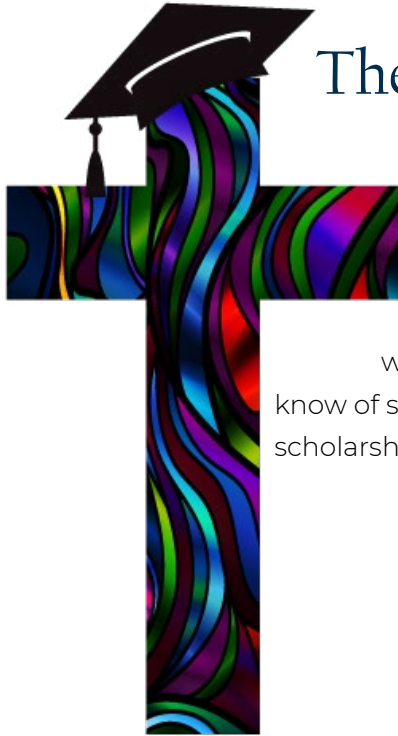


PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Holy Lord, you are gracious, merciful and slow to anger. Please forgive our lazy spirits, our anger, and our indignation. Open our eyes to see others the way you see them—as precious children. Over-fill our hearts with your love that we may spill that love over to others, especially those who are different from us. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Ambassador Highlights

The District Ambassadors continue to meet via zoom, every other week to discuss various topics of relevance. This has proven to be quite helpful and encouraging. All pastors are invited to attend. Let your ambassador know that you're interested and they'll send you the link; or you can let our Program Coordinator know at becky@augustanadistrict.org and she'll email the zoom link to you. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. CST.



Theological Education Scholarship Fund

Did you know that the Augustana District offers Scholarships for Theological Study to seminary students who are pursuing the Master of Divinity degree to serve in parish ministry and to graduate students who are pursuing Ph.D. or Th.D. degrees to teach seminary students? If you know of someone in one of these programs, please direct them to apply for this scholarship on the Augustana District website.

APPLY NOW

(<https://augustanadistrict.org/scholarship-application/>)



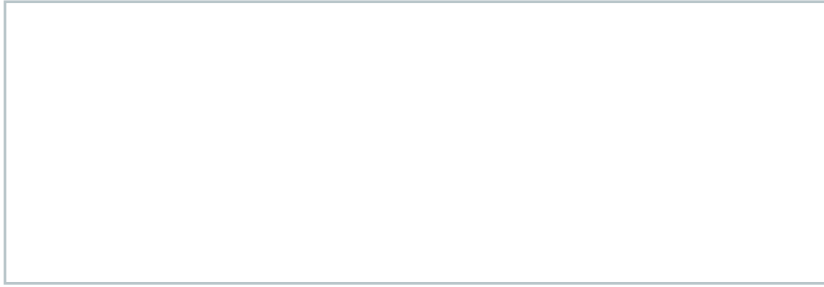
Medical Insurance Survey

The Augustana District continues to look at a variety of ways to support churches. One way is to help congregations and clergy find reasonably priced health insurance for pastors and church staff. Augustana District is currently exploring a plan that needs some input from **YOU** before we can get estimates of the plan cost. We encourage you to answer a few brief questions by clicking the link below. This survey information will be used only by this company to look at the options available to Augustana District churches as a group. It is vitally important that as many of you complete this information if you or your church would even be remotely interested in more details and pricing.


Please Complete the Survey Here

(<https://conta.cc/2F5oCG0>)





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



YOUR URGENT ATTENTION IS NEEDED!!



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